

SEPTEMBER 17, STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS

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While St. Francis of Assisi, in September, 1224, was rapt in meditation on Mount Alvernia, Almighty God as a mark of His special favor deigned to impress on his hands, feet, and side the likeness of the sacred wounds of Christ. Until the day of the saint's death blood flowed from these wounds at intervals. Pope Sixtus V ordered this feast to be observed by the whole Church. Clement VIII suppressed it, because the Church only dedicates special solemnities to the mysteries of our redemption; particular favors granted to the saints by God directly concern their individual sanctification, and are commemorated when the life of each saint is read in the Breviary on the day of his feast. The feast was restored, however, by Paul V, and raised to a rank of a double by Clement XIV. Its observance is a privilege overstepping the ordinary rules of the Liturgy, extended in honor of St. Francis, and not only rare, but also unique. Christ was pleased to imprint upon his new apostle, the herald of the Great King, this stigmata as His final seal, changing him to His own image and likeness and uniting him to Himself on the rood of the Cross.

INTROIT Galatians 6: 14

Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo. (Ps. 141: 2) Voce mea ad Dóminum clamávi: voce mea ad Dóminum deprecátus sum. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo.

COLLECT

Dómine Jesu Christe, qui, frigescente mundo, ad inflammándum corda nostra tui amoris igne, in carne beatissimi Francisci passiónis tuæ sacra Stigmata renovásti: concéde propítius; ut ejus méritis et précibus crucem júgiter ferámus, et dignos fructus poeniténtiæ faciámus: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Galatians 6: 14-18

Fratres: Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo. In Christo enim Jesu neque circumcisio aliquid valet neque præpútium, sed nova creatúra. Et quicumque hanc régulam secuti fuerint, pax sin per illos et misericórdia, et super Israël Dei. De cetero nemo mihi moléstus sit: ego enim stigmata Dómini Jesu in corpore meo porto. Grátia Dómini nostri Jesu Christi cum spíritu vestro, fratres. Amen.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30-31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur judícium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantabúntur gressus ejus.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Franciscus pauper et húmilis cælum dives ingréditur, hymnis cælestibus honorátur. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 24-27

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis: Si quis vult post me veníre, ábneget semetípsum, et tollat crucem suam, et sequátur me. Qui enim volúerit ánimam suam salvam fácere, perdet eam: qui autem perdíderit ánimam suam propter me, invéniet eam. Quid enim prodest hómíni, si mundum univérsum lucrétur, ánimæ vero suæ detriméntum patiatúr? Aut quam dabit homo commutatiónem pro ánimá sua? Fílius enim hómínis ventúrus est in glória Patris sui cum Ángelis suis: et tunc reddet unicuíque secúndum ópera ejus.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25

Véritas mea et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.

SECRET

Múnera tibi, Dómine, dicáta sanctífica: et, intercedénte beáto Francíscó, ab omni nos culpárum labe purífica. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constitúit dóminus super familiam suam: ut det illis in témpore trítici mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

Deus, qui mira Crucis mystéria in beáto Francíscó Confessóre tuo multifórmiter demonstrásti: da nobis, quæsumus; devotiónis suæ semper exémpla sectári, et assídua ejúsdem Crucis meditatióne muníri. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (Ps. 141: 2) I cried to the Lord with my voice: with my voice I made supplication to the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who, when the world was growing cold, in order to enkindle in our hearts the fire of Thy love, didst renew the sacred marks of Thy Passion of the body of blessed Francis: mercifully grant, that with the aid of his merits and prayers we may bear our cross, and bring forth worthy fruits of penance: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And whosoever shall follow this rule, peace on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man be troublesome to me; for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus in my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom: and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be supplanted.

Alleluia, alleluia. The poor and lowly Francis entereth heaven abounding in riches; he is acclaimed with celestial hymns. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it. For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul? Or what exchange shall a man give for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels: and then will he render to every man according to his works.

My truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

Sanctify the gifts dedicated to Thee, O Lord, and by the intercession of blessed Francis, purify us from every stain of sin. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

A faithful and wise steward, whom the Lord set over His family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

O God, Who didst in many ways demonstrate in blessed Francis, Thy confessor, the mysteries of the cross, grant us, we beseech Thee, ever to follow the examples of his devotion and to be fortified by constant meditation upon the same cross. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.