

OCTOBER 16, ST. HEDWIG, WIDOW

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St. Hedwig, of royal origin, on the death of her husband, Duke Henry of Poland, retired into a Cistercian monastery, where she lived under obedience to one of her daughters, who was abbess of the monastery, growing day by day in holiness till Almighty God called her to Himself, October 14, 1243. St. Hedwig fasted and prayed and took the discipline; she heard several Masses daily and distributed alms with great generosity. She was canonized twenty years later by Pope Clement IV.

INTROIT Psalms 118: 75, 120

Cognóvi, Dómine, quia æquitas iudicia in veritate tua humiliasti me: confige timore tuo carnes meas, a mandatis tuis tímui. (Psalms 118: 1) Beáti immaculáti in via: qui ámbulant in lege Dómini. Glória Patri et Fíliu et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Cognóvi, Dómine, quia æquitas iudicia in veritate tua humiliasti me: confige timore tuo carnes meas, a mandatis tuis tímui.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátam Hedwígem a sæculi pompa ad húmílem tuæ Crucis sequélam toto corde transíre docuísti: concéde; ut ejus méritis et exémplo discámus peritúras mundi calcáre delicias, et in ampléxu tuæ Crucis ómnia nobis adversántia superáre: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Proverbs 31:10-31

Mulíerem fortem quis invéniet? Procul et de últimis finibus prætium ejus. Confídit in ea cor viri sui, et spóliis non indigébit. Reddet ei bonum, et non malum, ómnibus diébus vitæ suæ. Quæsivit lanam et linum, et operáta est consílio mánuum suárum. Facta est quasi navis institóriis, de longe portans panem suum. Et de nocte surrêxit, dedítque prædam domésticis suis, et cibária ancillis suis. Considerávit agrum, et emit eum: de fructu mánuum suárum plantávit víneam. Accínxit fortitúdine lumbos suos, et roborávit bráchium suum. Gustávit, et vidit, quia bona est negotiátio ejus: non extingúetur in nocte lucérna ejus. Manum suam misit ad fórtia, et dígiti ejus apprehénderent fusum. Manum suam apéruit ínopi, et palmas suas exténdit ad páuperem. Non tímébit dómui suæ a frigóribus nivis: omnes enim doméstici ejus vestíti sunt duplícibus. Stragulátam vestem fecit sibi: byssus et púrpura indumentum ejus. Nóbilis in portis vir ejus, quando séderit cum senatóribus terræ. Sindonem fecit et véndidit, et cingulum tradidit Chananaeo. Fortitúdo et decor indumentum ejus, et ridébit in die novíssimo. Os suum apéruit sapiéntiæ, et lex cleméntiæ in lingua ejus. Considerávit sémitas domus suæ, et panem otíosa non comédit. Surrexerunt fílii ejus, et beatíssimam prædicavérunt: vir ejus, et laudávit eam. Multæ filiæ regnavérunt divítias, tu supergréssa es univérsas. Fallax grátia, et vana est pulchritúdo: mulier timens Dóminum, ipsa laudábitur. Date ei de fructu mánuum suárum, et laudent eam in portis ópera ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 3

Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum. Própter veritátem et mansuetúdinem, et justítiam: et dedúcet te mirabíliter dèxtera tua. Allelúja, allelúja.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 44: 5

Spécie tua, et pulchritúdine tua inténde, prospere procéde, et regna. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 13: 44-52

In illo tempore: Dixit Jesus, discípuis suis parábolam hanc: "Símile est regnum cælórum thesáuro abscondito in agro: quem qui invénit homo, abscondit, et præ gáudio illíus vadit, et vendit univérsa quæ habet, et emit agrum illum. Íterum símile est regnum cælórum hómini negotiátóri, quærénti bonas margaritas. Invénta autem una pretíosa margaríta, abiit, et véndidit ómnia quæ hábuit, et emit eam. Íterum símile est regnum cælórum sagénæ missæ in mare, et ex omni génere píscium congregánti. Quam, cum impléta esset, educéntes, et secus líttus sedéntes, elegérunt bonos in vasa, malos autem foras misérunt. Sic erit in consummatione sæculi: exíbunt Ángeli, et separábunt malos de médio justórum, et mittent eos in camínium ignis: ibi erit fletus, et stridor déntium. Intellexístis hæc omnia?" Dicunt ei: Étiam. Ait illis:" Ideo omnis scriba doctus in regno cælórum, similis est hómini patrifámiliis, qui profert de thesáuro suo nova et vétera."

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 3

Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum, et in saeculum saeculi.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sit, Dómine, sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro tuórum se méritis, de tribulatione percepísse cognóscit auxílium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 44: 8

Dilexísti justitiam, et odísti iniquitátem: proptérea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, óleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Satiásti, Dómine, famíliam tuam munéribus sacris: ejus, quæsumus, semper interventióne nos refóve, cujus solémnia celebrámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are equity, and in Thy truth Thou hast humbled me: pierce Thou my flesh with Thy fear, I am afraid of Thy judgments. (Psalms 118: 1) Blessed are the undefiled in the way: who walk in the law of 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. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are equity, and in Thy truth Thou hast humbled me: pierce Thou my flesh with Thy fear, I am afraid of Thy judgments.

O God, Who didst teach blessed Hedwig to leave the pomp of the world for the humble following of Thy cross, grant that, through her merits and intercession, we may learn to trample under foot the perishable delights of the world and in the embrace of Thy cross to overcome all things that oppose us: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. she is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips: therefore hath God blessed thee for ever. Because of truth, and meekness, and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully. Alleluia, alleluia.

With thy comeliness, and thy beauty, set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus, spoke this parable to His disciples: The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in a field; which a man having found, hid it, and for joy thereof goeth, and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again the kingdom of heaven is like to a merchant seeking good pearls. Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way, and sold all that he had, and bought it. Again the kingdom of heaven is like to a net cast into the sea, and gathering together of all kind of fishes; which, when it was filled, they drew out, and sitting by the shore, they chose out the good into vessels, but the bad they cast forth. So shall it be at the end of the world. The angels shall go out, and shall separate the wicked from among the just. And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have ye understood all these things? They say to him: Yes. He said unto them: Therefore every scribe instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like to a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure new things and old.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever and for ages of ages.

May the offerings of thy holy people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy saints, through whose merits they know that they have received aid in time of trouble. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thou hast loved justice and hated iniquity : therefore God thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Thou hast filled Thy household, O Lord, with sacred gifts; ever comfort us, we beseech Thee, by the intercession of the saint whose festival we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.