

OCTOBER 19, ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA, CONFESSOR

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Peter Caravito, or Peter of Alcantara, as he is called from the city of his birth, died on October 18, 1562, and his feast was introduced into the Missal by Clement X. This saint is distinguished by three characteristics. The first is the incredible severity of the mortification by which, like St. Paul, he sought to fill up that which was wanting in the Passion of Christ, for the good of the Church. The spirit of the Franciscan Reform, initiated in the new so-called province of St. Joseph by his endeavors, is one of great penance and extreme poverty. The second characteristic of St. Peter of Alcantara is the abundance of mystical gifts and the grace of sublime contemplation received by him in reward for his austerities. Thirdly, St. Peter is distinguished by the active part he took in the reform of the Carmelite Order initiated by St. Teresa. He was the first to examine and approve of the spirit of this reform. St. Teresa, for her part, declared that she had never asked anything of the Lord through the merits of Brother Peter which she had not obtained.

INTROIT Psalms 91: 13-14

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere Nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátum Petrum Confessórem tuum admirábilis pœniténtiæ et altíssimæ contemplatiónis múnere illustráre dignátus es: da nobis, quæsumus; ut, ejus suffragántibus méritis, carne mortificáti, facilius cæléstia capiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Philippians 3: 7-12

Fratres: Quæ mihi fuérunt lucra, hæc arbitrátus sum propter Christum detriménta. Verúmtamen exístimo ómnia detriméntum esse propter eminentem sciéntiam Jesu Christi, Dómini mei: propter quem ómnia detriméntum feci et árbitor ut stércora, ut Christum lucrifáciam et invéniam in illo, non habens meam justítiam, quæ ex lege est, sed illam, quæ ex fide est Christi Jesu: quæ ex Deo est justítia in fide, ad cognoscéndum illum, et virtútem resurrectiόνis ejus, et societátem passiónum illius: configurátus morti ejus: si quo modo occúrram ad resurrectiõem, quæ est ex mórtuis: non quod iam accéperim aut iam perféctus sim: sequor autem, si quo modo comprehéndam, in quo et comprehénsus sum a Christo Jesu.

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 Psalms 111: 1

Allelúia, allelúia. Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Allelúia.

GOSPEL Luke 12: 32-34

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplulis suis: Nolíte timére pusíllus grex, quia complácuit Patri vestro dare vobis regnum. Véndite quæ possidétis, et date eleemósynam. Fácite vobis sácculos, qui non veteráscunt, thesáurum non deficiéntem in cælis: quo fur non apprópiat, neque tinea corrúmpit. Ubi enim thesáurus vester est, ibi et cor vestrum erit.

OFFERTORY Psalms 20: 2-3

In virtúte tua, Dómine, lætábitur justus, et super salutáre tuum exultábit vehementer: desidérium ánimæ ejus tribuísti ei.

SECRET

Præsta nobis, quæsumus omnípotens Deus: ut nostræ humilitátis oblátio, et pro tuórum tibi grata sit honoré Sanctórum, et nos córpore páriter et mente puríficet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 19: 28-29

Amen dico vobis: quod vos, qui reliquístis ómnia, et secúti estis me, céntuplum accipiétis et vitam ætérnam possidébitis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui cæléstia aliménta percépimus, intercedénte beáto Petro, Confessóre tuo, per hæc contra ómnia advérsa muniámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. 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. The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

O God, Who didst vouchsafe to make blessed Peter, Thy confessor, glorious by the gift of a wonderful spirit of penance and most lofty contemplation, grant us, we beseech Thee, that, through his interceding merits, being mortified in the flesh, we may the more easily understand the things of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: The things that were gain to me, these, for the sake of Christ, I have counted loss. Nay more, I count everything loss because of the excelling knowledge of Jesus Christ, my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I count them as dung that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a justice of my own, which is from the Law, but that which is from faith in Christ, the justice from God based upon faith; so that I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings: become like to Him in death, in the hope that somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this, or already have been made perfect, but I press on hoping that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me.

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. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Fear not, little flock, for it hath pleased your Father to give you a kingdom. Sell what you possess and give alms. Make to yourselves bags which grow not old, a treasure in heaven which faileth not: where no thief approacheth, nor moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

In Thy strength, O Lord, the just man shall joy, and in Thy salvation he shall rejoice exceedingly: Thou hast given him his heart's desire.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that the offering we humbly bring, may both be pleasing to Thee for the honor of Thy Saints, and cleanse us alike in body and soul. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen I say to you, that you, who have left all things and followed Me, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

We beseech Thee, almighty God, that we, who have received heavenly nourishment, may through it, by the intercession of blessed Peter, Thy Confessor, be defended against all adversity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.