

NOVEMBER16, ST. GERTRUDE, VIRGIN

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St. Gertrude was born in Eisleben in Upper Saxony, 1256. At the age of five she was an oblate in the Benedictine Convent at Rodalsdorf, over which convent she ruled for forty years as Abbess. The Roman Breviary states that she died in 1334 "consumed rather by the ardor of her love than by disease." At the age of twenty-five she was favored with celestial visions, and towards the end of her life she received the stigmata. At God's command she recorded her revelations in her wonderful book called *Communications and Sentiments of Love*. The mission of this celebrated Benedictine nun in the Thirteenth Century was very similar to that of Margaret Mary Alacoque, which indeed she recognized and foretold in a prophetic showing.

Her mystical life was lived in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus; she is pictured with a flower in her hand. When she spoke of Christ and the mysteries of His adorable life, her words were sweeter than honey and the honey-comb; her spirit was ever serene and radiant. Jesus revealed to her His Heart as a mystery of grace and love, rather than as an abyss of sorrow. She was not called to the special vocation of victim for the sins of the world as was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

A member of an order which for more than seven centuries had been the heir of patristic tradition and in which the Liturgy was almost exclusively the source of spiritual life, Gertrude conceived devotion to the Sacred Heart not as a separate devotion, but as a deeper intelligence of the great all-embracing mystery of Christ living again in the Church by means of the Catholic Liturgy.

INTROIT Psalms 44: 8

Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis. (Ps. 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis.

COLLECT

Deus, qui in corde beátæ Gertrúdis Virgínis jucúndam tibi mansionem præparásti: ipsius méritis et intercessióne; cordis nostræ máculas cleménte abstérge, et ejúsdem tribue gaudére consórtio. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 10: 17-18; 11: 1-2

Fratres: Qui gloriátur, in Dómino gloriétur. Non enim qui seipsum comméndat, ille probátus est; sed quem Deus comméndat. Utinam sustinerétis módicum quid insipiéntiæ meæ, sed et supportáte me: æmulator enim vos Dei æmulatióne. Despóndi enim vos uni viro vírginem castam exhibére Christo.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 5

Spécie tua, et pulchritúdine tua inténde, prospere procéde, et regna. Propter veritátem, et mansuetúdinem, et justítiam: et dedúcet te mirábíliter dextera tua.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Adducéntur regi vírgines post eam: próxime ejus afferéntur tibi in lætítia. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13

In illo tempore: Dixit Jesus discíplulis suis parabolam hanc: Simile erit regnum cælórum decem virgínibus quæ accipiéntes lámpades suas exiérunt óbviam sponso et sponsæ. Quinque autem ex eis erant fátuæ, et quinque prudéntes: sed quinque fátuæ, accéptis lámpádibus, non sumpsérunt óleum secum: prudéntes vero accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lámpádibus. Moram autem faciénte sponso, dormitavérunt omnes et dormiérunt. Média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit, exite óbviam ei. Tunc surrexérunt omnes vírgines illæ, et ornavérunt lámpades suas. Fátuæ autem sapiéntibus dixérunt: Date nobis de óleo vestro: quia lámpádes nostræ exstinguúntur. Respondérunt prudéntes, dicentes: Ne forte non sufficiat nobis, et vobis, ite pótius ad vendéntes, et émite vobis. Dum autem irent émere, venit sponsus: et quæ parátæ erant, intravérunt cum eo ad núptias, et clausa est jánuá. Novíssime vero véniunt et réliquæ vírgines, dicéntes: Dómine, Dómine, áperi nobis. At ille respóndens ait: Amen, dico vobis, nescio vos. Vigiláte itaque, quia nescítis diem, neque horam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 10

Fíliæ regum in honóre tuo: ádstitit regina a dextris tuis in vestítu deauráto, circúmdata varietáte.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sit, Dómine, sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro tuórum honóre Sanctórum: quorum se méritis, de tribulatióne percepisse cognóscit auxiliúm. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 25: 4, 6

Quinque prudéntes vírgines accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lámpádibus: média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponso venit: exite óbviam Christo Dómino.

POSTCOMMUNION

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

Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. 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. Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

O God, Who didst prepare for Thyself a pleasant dwelling-place in the heart of blessed Gertrude, do Thou, through her merits and intercession, mercifully wipe away from our hearts every stain of sin, and grant us to enjoy her companionship. 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, he that glory, let him glory in the Lord. For not that he that commendeth himself is approved, but he whom God commendeth. Would to God you could bear with some little of my folly, but do bear with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God. For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

With thy comeliness and thy beauty set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Because of truth, and meekness and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully.

Allelúia, allelúia. After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee with gladness. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples, The kingdom of Heaven shall be like to ten virgins, who taking their lamps went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride. And five of them were foolish, and five wise. But the five foolish, having taken their lamps, did not take oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with the lamps. And the bridegroom tarrying, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps; and the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. The wise answered, saying, Lest perhaps there be not enough for us and for you, go you rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. Now whilst they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. But at last came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open to us; but he answering said, Amen I say to you, I know ye not. Watch ye, therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour.

The daughters of kings in thy glory: the queen stood on thy right hand in gilded clothing, surrounded with variety.

May the offering of Thy consecrated people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy saints, by whose merits it knoweth that it hath 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.

The five wise virgins took oil in their vessels with the lamps: and at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye forth to meet Christ our Lord.

Thou hast filled Thy household, O Lord, with sacred gifts; ever comfort us, we beseech Thee, through her intercession 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.