

DECEMBER 11, ST. DAMASUS, POPE

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St. Damasus, by birth a Spaniard, governed the Church from 366 to 384. "The ancients," according to Alban Butler, "particularly commend his constancy in maintaining the purity of our holy faith, the innocence of his manners, his Christian humility, his compassion for the poor, his piety in adorning holy places, especially the tombs of the martyrs, and his singular learning." Much of our knowledge about the martyrs is derived from the inscriptions which he composed in their praise. He established rules for the liturgical singing of the Psalms and decreed that the *Gloria Patri* should be said at the end of each Psalm. At his command St. Jerome translated the New Testament into Latin. This Pope also confirmed the second ecumenical council, held at Constantinople.

INTROIT John 21: 15-17

Si diligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas. (Ps. 29: 1) Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me, nec delectásti inimicos meos super me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Si diligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas.

COLLECT

Gregem tuum, Pastor ætérnæ placátus inténde: et per beátum Damasum, Summum Pontíficem, perpétua protectióne custódi; quem totíus Ecclésiæ præstitisti esse pastórem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Éxcita, Dómine, corda nostra ad præparándas Unigéniti tui vias: ut per ejus adventum, purificátis tibi méntibus servíre mereámur. Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 5: 1-4, 10-11

Caríssimi: Senióres, qui in vobis sunt, óbsecro consénior et testis Christi passiónum, qui et ejus, quæ in futúro revelánda est, glóriæ comunicátor: páscite qui in vobis est gregem Dei, providéntes non coácte, sed spontáneee secúndum Deum, neque turpis lucrí grátia, sed voluntárie; neque ut dominántes in cleris, sed forma facti gregis ex ánimo. Et, cum appáuerit princeps pastórum, percipiétis immarcescibilem glóriæ coronam. Deus autem omnis grátiae, qui vocávit nos in ætérnam suam glóriam in Christo Jesu, módicum passos ipse perficiet, confirmábit solidabítque. Ipsi glória et impérium in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

GRADUAL Psalm 106: 32, 31

Exálted eum in ecclésia plebis: et in cáthedra seniórum laudent eum. Confiteántur Dómino misericórdiae ejus, et mirabília ejus filiis hóminum.

LESSER ALLELUIA Matthew 16: 18

Allelúja, allelúja. Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám meam. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaráe Philíppi, et interrogábat discipulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixerunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistam, álii autem Eliám, álii vero Jeremíam, aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in cælis: et quodcúmque soláveris super terram, erit solútum et in cælis.

OFFERTORY Jeremiah 1: 9-10

Ecce dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce, constítui te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllas et déstruas, et aedífices et plantes.

SECRET

Oblátis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclésiám tuam benígnus illúmina: ut, et gregis tui proficiat ubique succéssus, et grati fiant nómini tuo, te gubernánte, pastóres. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Placáre, quæsumus, Dómine, humilitátis nostræ précbus et hóstiis: et ubi nulla súppetunt suffrágia meritórum, tuis nobis succúrre præsídiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF ADVENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Quem pèrdito hóminum géneri Salvatórem miséricors et fidélis promisiísti: cujus véritas instrúeret íncios, sáncritas justificáret ímpios, virtus adjuváret infírmos. Dum ergo prope est ut véniat quem missúrus es, et dies affúlget liberatiónis nostræ, in hac promissiónum tuárum fide, piis gáudiis exultámus. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelibus, cumque omni militia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicétes:

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Refectióne sancta enutrítam gubérna, quæsumus Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclésiám: ut poténti moderatióne dirécta, et increménta libertátis accípiat et in religiónis integritáte persístat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Repleti cibo spirituális alimóniæ, súpplices te, Dómine, deprecámur: ut hujus participatióne mystérii, dóceas nos terréna despícere et amáre cæléstia. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep. (Ps. 29: 1) I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. 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. Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep.

Eternal Shepherd, direct gently Thy flock, and guard it with an everlasting protection, by the intercession of blessed Damasus, Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou hast constituted Shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of Thine only-begotten Son: that through His coming we may attain to serve Thee with purified minds. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved, The ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will Himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to Him: and His wonderful works to the children of men.

Alleluia, alleluia. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Caesarea Philippi: and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elishah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

Behold I have given My words in thy mouth: lo, I have set thee over the nations, and over kingdoms, to root up, and to pull down, and to build, and to plant.

By the offered gifts we beg Thee, O Lord, enlighten kindly Thy Church: so that Thy flock everywhere may be increasing, and the Shepherds, under Thy direction, may be pleasing to Thy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Be appeased, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the prayers and sacrifices of our humility: and where no pleadings of merit suffice, do Thou, by Thine aid, assist us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and places give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, through Christ our Lord; for in Thy mercy and fidelity Thou hast promised Him as Savior to the lost race of men, to instruct the ignorant with His truth, justify the wicked with His holiness, and help the weak by His power. Now that the time draweth nigh that He Whom Thou art to send should come, and the day of our liberation should dawn, with faith in Thy promises, we rejoice with holy exultation. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, graciously govern Thy Church, which Thou hast fed with a holy meal; so that, directed by a mighty wisdom, she may progress in liberty, and persist in the integrity of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Filled with the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly entreat Thee, O Lord, that by our partaking of this Mystery, Thou wouldst teach us to love those 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.