

Station at St. Anastasia.

Originally, the station Mass at St. Anastasia was wholly in honor of the martyr of that name, but later on, as the feast of Christmas gradually gained in importance, that of St. Anastasia dwindled down to a commemorative Collect. Under the Diocletian persecution, this holy martyr was burnt alive on this day. The mystical meaning attached by medieval liturgists to the hour of dawn had no foundation in the Roman custom.

This Mass draws its chief inspiration from the thought of the sun, whose rising already begins to dispel the shades of night and leads us to the contemplation of Him who was begotten, Light of Light, from the bosom of the divine Father before the rising of the day-star.

Generosity, magnificence, and light, these are always the marks of God's handiwork. Sin is generally committed in darkness and in secret, for the wicked hate the light, but the Redemption is wrought upon Calvary in sight of the whole world, so that all people, through the light of faith, may recognize and adore the crucified Savior.

INTROIT Isaiah 9: 2, 6

Lux fulgēbit hodie super nos: quia natus est nobis Dōminus: et vocābitur Admirābilis, Deus, Princeps pacis, Pater futūri sæculi: cujus regni non erit finis. (Ps. 92: 1) Dōminus regnāvit, decōrem indūtus est: indūtus est Dōminus fortitūdinem, et præcīxit se. Glōria Patri et Fīlio et Spīritui Sancto, sicut erat in princīpio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculōrum. Amen. Lux fulgēbit hodie super nos: quia natus est nobis Dōminus: et vocābitur Admirābilis, Deus, Princeps pacis, Pater futūri sæculi: cujus regni non erit finis.

COLLECT

Da nobis, quæsumus, omnīpotens Deus: ut, qui nova incarnāti Verbi tui luce perfūdimur; hoc in nostro resplēdeat opere, quod per fidem fulget in mente. Per eūdem Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

(Commemoration of St. Anastasia)

Da, quæsumus, omnīpotens Deus: ut, qui beatæ Anastasiæ Mārtyris tuæ solēmnia cōlimus; ejus apud te patrocīnia sentiāmus. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

EPISTLE Titus 3: 4-7

Carīssime: Appāruit benignitas et humanitas Salvatōris nostri Dei: non ex opēribus justitiæ, quæ fēcimus nos, sed secūndum suam misericōrdiam salvos nos fecit per lavācrum regeneratiōnis et renovatiōnis Spīritus Sancti, quem effūdīt in nos abūnde per Jesum Christum, Salvatōrem nostrum: ut justificāti grātia ipsius, herēdes simus secūndum spem vitæ ætērnæ: in Christo Jesu Dōmino nostro.

GRADUAL Psalms 117: 26-27, 23

Benedīctus qui venit in nōmine Dōmini: Deus Dōminus, et illūxit nobis. A Dōmino factum est istud: et est mirābile in oculis nostris.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 92: 1

Allelūja, allelūja. Dōminus regnāvit, decōrem induit: induit Dōminus fortitūdinem, et præcīxit se virtūte. Allelūja.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 15-20

In illo tēpore: Pastōres loquebāntur ad invicem: Transeāmus usque Bethlehēm, et videāmus hoc verbum, quod factum est, quod Dōminus ostēdit nobis. Et venērunt festinātes: et invenērunt Mariām, et Joseph, et Infāntem pōsitum in præsepīo. Vidētes autem cognōverunt de verbo, quod dictum erat illis de pūero hoc. Et omnes, qui audiērunt, mirāti sunt: et de his, quæ dicta erant a pastōribus ad ipsos. Mariā autem conservābat omnia verba hæc, cōnferens in corde suo. Et revērsi sunt pastōres, glorificātes et laudātes Deum in omnibus, quæ audierant, et viderant, sicut dictum est ad illos.

OFFERTORY Psalms 92: 1-2

Deus firmāvit orbem terræ, qui non commovēbitur: parāta sedes tua, Deus, ex tunc, a sæculo tu es.

SECRET

Mūnera nostra, quæsumus, Dōmine, Nativitātis hodiērnæ mystēriis apta provēniant, et pacem nobis semper infūdant: ut, sicut homo gēnitus idem refūlsit et Deus, sic nobis hæc terrēna substāntia cōnferat, quod divinum est. Per eūdem Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

(Commemoration of St. Anastasia)

Accipe, quæsumus, Dōmine, mūnera dignāter oblāta: et, beatæ Anastasiæ Mārtyris tuæ suffragāntibus mēritis, ad nostræ salutis auxiliū provenire concēde. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique grātias āgere: Dōmine sancte, Pater omnīpotens, ætērne Deus. Quia per incarnāti Verbi mystērium, nova mentis nostræ oculis lux tuæ claritātis infūlsit: ut dum visibīliter Deum cognōscimus, per hunc in invisibīlium cognōscimus, rapiāmur. Et ideo cum Angēlis et Archāngēlis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militīa cælēstis exercitus, hymnum glōriæ tuæ cānimus, sine fine dicētes:

COMMUNICANTES FOR CHRISTMAS

Communicāntes, et diem sacratīssimum celebrāntes, quo beatæ Mariæ intemerāta virgīnitas huic mūndo edēditur: sed et memōriam venerāntes, in primis ejūsdem gloriōsæ semper Virgīnis Mariæ, Genetrīcis ejūsdem Dei et Dōmini nostri Jesu Christi: sed et beāti Joseph, ejūsdem Virgīnis Sponsi, et beatōrum Apostolōrum ac Mārtyrum tuōrum, Petri et Pauli, Andrēæ, Jacōbi, Joānnis, Thomæ, Jacōbi, Philīppi, Bartholomæi, Matthæi, Simōnis et Thaddæi: Lini, Cleti, Clemētis, Xysti, Cornēlii, Cypriāni, Laurēntii, Chrysōgoni, Joānnis et Pauli, Cosmæ et Damiāni: et omnium Sanctōrum tuōrum; quoniam mēritis, precibūsque concēdas, ut in omnibus protectionis tuæ muniāmur auxiliō. Per eūdem Christum Dōminum nostrum. Amen.

COMMUNION Zachariah 9: 9

Exsulta, filia Sion, lauda, filia Jerúsalem: ecce rex tuus venit sanctus, et Salvātor mundi.

POSTCOMMUNION

Hujus nos, Dōmine, sacramēti semper novitas natālis instāuret: cujus Nativitas singularis humanam répulit vetustātem. Per eūdem Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

(Commemoration of St. Anastasia)

Satiāsti, Dōmine, familiam tuam munēribus sacris: ejus, quæsumus, semper interventīōne nos réfove, cujus solēmnia celebrāmus. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fīlium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spīritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

A light shall shine upon us this day: for the Lord is born to us: and He shall be called Wonderful, God, the Prince of Peace, the Father of the world to come: of whose reign there shall be no end. (Ps. 92: 1) The Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty: the Lord is clothed with strength, and hath girded Himself. 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. A light shall shine upon us this day: for the Lord is born to us: and He shall be called Wonderful, God, the Prince of Peace, the Father of the world to come: of whose reign there shall be no end.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we, upon whom is poured the new light of Thine Incarnate Word, may show forth in our actions that brightness which by faith shineth in our minds. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we who honor the solemnity of Thy blessed martyr, Anastasia, may experience the effect of her intercession with Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved, the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared: not by the works of justice which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the laver of regeneration and renovation of the Holy Ghost, whom He hath poured forth upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior: that, being justified by His grace, we may be heirs according to hope of life everlasting: in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord: the Lord is God, and He hath shone upon us. This is the Lord's doing: and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty: the Lord is clothed with strength, and hath girded Himself with power. Alleluia.

At that time the shepherds said one to another: Let us go over to Bethlehem, and let us see this word that is come to pass, which the Lord hath showed to us. And they came with haste: and they found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger. And seeing they understood of the word that had been spoken to them concerning this Child. And all that heard wondered: and at those things that were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

God hath established the world, which shall not be moved: Thy throne, O God, is prepared from of old; Thou art from everlasting.

May our offerings, we beseech Thee, O Lord, be in keeping with the mysteries of this festival of the Nativity, and ever pour down upon us peace: that, even as He who was born man shone forth also as God, so may this earthly substance bestow upon us that which is divine. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Accept we pray Thee, O Lord, the gifts duly offered to Thee, and, by the interceding merits of blessed Anastasia, Thy martyr, grant them to be profitable for the furtherance of our salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee 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 in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: for through the Mystery of the Word made flesh, the new light of Thy glory hath shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that while we acknowledge God in visible form, we may through Him be drawn to the love of things invisible. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Communicating, and keeping this most holy day, in which the spotless virginity of blessed Mary brought forth a Savior to this world; and also reverencing the memory first of the same glorious Mary, ever Virgin Mother of the same God and our Lord Jesus Christ: as also of blessed Joseph, her Spouse, and of Thy blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Thaddeus; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian, and of all Thy Saints, through whose merits and prayers grant that we may in all things be defended by the help of Thy protection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Sion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King comes, holy, the Savior of the world.

May the Christmas renewal of this sacrament ever restore us, O Lord, Whose miraculous birth did put away the ancient things of mankind. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thou hast filled Thy household, O Lord, with sacred gifts; ever cherish us, we beseech Thee, by the intercession of her whose feast 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.