

Many allusions are made today to Jerusalem in the Liturgy. The Collect is inspired by the famous cry of the Baptist, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord;" so we pray to God to pour His grace into our hearts. This preparation consists in the spirit of contrition purifying the soul and in the sincere purpose of obedience to the divine precepts.

In the Epistle St. Paul in a few touches sketches the mission of the Redeemer to establish all mankind in one single family, the Church. The Gospel testifies to the divinity of Christ by deeds rather than by words.

The Eucharistic grace for which we beg in the Postcommunion is that the holy bread, the memorial of the death of Our Lord, may destroy in us the germs of evil and may nourish us unto everlasting life.

INTROIT Isaiah 30: 30

Pópulus Sion, ecce Dóminus véniet ad salvándas gentes: et audítam fáciét Dóminus glóriam vocis suæ in lætítia cordis vestri. (Ps. 79: 2) Qui regis Israél, inténde: qui dedúcis, velut ovem, Joseph. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Pópulus Sion, ecce Dóminus véniet ad salvándas gentes: et audítam fáciét Dóminus glóriam vocis suæ in lætítia cordis vestri.

COLLECT

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

For St. Melchiades

Gregem tuum, Pastor ætérnæ placátus inténde: et per beátum Melchiadem Martyrem atque Summum Pontíficem tuum, 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.

EPISTLE Romans 15: 4-13

Fratres: Quæcúmque scripta sunt, ad nostram doctrínam scripta sunt: ut per patiéntiam et consolatiónem Scripturárum, spem habeámus. Deus autem patiéntiæ et solátii, det vobis idípsum sápere in altérutrum secúndum Jesum Christum: ut unánimes, uno ore honorificétis Deum et Patrem Dómini nostri Jesu Christi. Propter quod suscipite ínvicem, sicut et Christus suscepit vos in honórem Dei. Dico enim Christum Jesum minístrum fuisse circumcisiónis propter veritátem Dei, ad confirmándas promissiones patrum: gentes autem super misericórdia honoráre Deum, sicut scriptum est: Proptérea confitébor tibi in géntibus, Dómine, et nómini tuo cantábo. Et íterum dicit: Lætámini, gentes, cum plebe ejus. Et íterum: Laudáte omnes gentes Dóminum: et magnificáte eum omnes pópuli. Et rursus Isaías ait: Erit radix Jesse, et qui exsúrget régere gentes, in eum gentes sperábunt. Deus autem spei répleat vos omni gáudio et pace in credéndo: ut abundétis in spe, et virtúte Spíritus Sancti.

GRADUAL Psalms 49: 2, 3, 5

Ex Sion spécies decóris ejus: Deus maniféste véniet. Congregáte illi sanctos ejus, qui ordinavérunt testaméntum ejus super sacrificia.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 121: 1

Allelúja, allelúja. Lætátus sum in his, quæ dicta sunt mihi: in domum Dómini íbimus. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 2-10

In illo témpore: Cum audísset Joánnes in vínculis ópera Christi, mittens duos de discipulis suis, ait illi: Tu es, qui videntur es, an álium expectámus? Et respóndens Jesus, ait illis: Eúntes renuntiáte Joánni quæ audístis, et vidístis. Cæci vident, claudi ámbulant, leprósi mundántur, surdi áudiunt, mórtui resúrgunt, páuperes evangelizántur: et beátus est, qui non fuérunt scandalizátus in me. Illis autem abeúntibus, cœpit Jesus dícere ad turbas de Joánnē: Quid exístis in desértum vidére? arúndinem vento agitátam? Sed quid exístis vidére? hóminem móllibus vestítum? Ecce qui móllibus vestiúntur, in dómibus regum sunt. Sed quid exístis vidére? prophétam? Étiam dico vobis, et plus quam prophétam. Hic est enim, de quo scriptum est: Ecce ego mitto Ángelum meum ante fáciem tuam, qui præparábit viam ante te.

OFFERTORY Psalms 84: 7, 8

Deus, tu convérsus vivificábis nos, et plebs tua lætábitur in te: osténde nobis, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam, et salutáre tuum da nobis.

SECRET

Placáre, quæsumus, Dómine, humilitátis nostræ précibus 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.

For St. Melchiades

Oblátis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclésiám tuam benígna illúmina: ut, et gregis tui proficiat ubíque 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.

PREFACE OF ADVENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Quem pèrdito hóminum géneri Salvatórem miséricordis et fidélis vicem méris veritas instrúeret íncios, sáncritas justificáret ímpios, virtus adjuváret infirmos. Dum ergo prope est ut véniat quem missúrus es, et dies affúlget liberatiónis nostræ, in hac promissionum tuárum fide, piis gáudiis exsultámus. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicétes:

COMMUNION Baruch 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerúsalem, surge, et sta in excélsó, et vide jucunditátem, quæ véniet tibi a Deo tuo.

POSTCOMMUNION

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

For St. Melchiades

Refectióne sancta enutritám gubérna, quæsumus Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclésiám: ut poténti moderatióne dirécta, et increménta libertátis accipiat 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.

People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations: and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard, in the joy of your heart. (Ps. 79: 2) Give ear, O Thou that rules Israel: Thou that leads Joseph like a sheep. 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. People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations: and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard, in the joy of your heart.

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.

Eternal Shepherd, regard graciously Thy flock, and keep it with an everlasting protection, by the intercession of blessed Melchiades, Thy Martyr and Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou hast constituted shepherd of the whole Church. 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, What things soever were written, were written for our learning: that, through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures, we might have hope. Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of one mind according to Jesus Christ, that with one mind and one mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive one another, as Christ also hath received you unto the honor of God. For I say that Christ Jesus was minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: but that the Gentiles are to glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: Therefore will I confess to Thee, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and will sing to Thy Name. And again He saith: Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with His people. And again: Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles, and magnify Him, all ye people. And again, Isaías saith: There shall be a root of Jesse; and He that shall rise up to rule the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing: that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Out of Sion, the loveliness of His beauty: God shall come manifestly. Gather ye together His Saints to Him, who have set His covenant before sacrifices.

Alleluia, alleluia. I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We shall go unto the house of the Lord. Alleluia.

At that time, when John had heard in prison the works of Christ, sending two of his disciples, he said to Him: Art thou He that art to come, or look we for another? And Jesus, making answer, said to them: Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen. The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise again, the poor have the gospel preached to them: and blessed is he that shall not be scandalized in Me. And when they went their way, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: What went you out into the desert to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went you out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Behold they that are clothed in soft garments are in the houses of kings. But what went you out to see? A prophet? Yea I tell you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: Behold, I send my Angel before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way before Thee.

Thou wilt turn, O God, and bring us to life, and Thy people shall rejoice in Thee: show us, O Lord, Thy mercy, and grant us Thy salvation.

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.

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.

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 His 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:

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and behold the joy that cometh to thee from Thy God.

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 despise the things of earth, and 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.

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.