

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – *Gaudete* Sunday

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Station at St. Peter's.

In Rome on the fourth Sunday of Advent there was no station-because of the great ordinations of priests and deacons, *mense Decembri*, which took place on the preceding night – hence this third station preparatory to Christmas was celebrated at St. Peter's with great splendor.

The station Mass for this day, as it immediately precedes the Christmas season, had originally a strikingly festive character. The note of joy has diminished somewhat in modern times; however, at the Mass the sacred ministers are clothed in rose-colored vestments in place of the customary ones of violet, and the organ once again fills the aisles with its strains.

To dispose our souls for the worthy reception of divine grace demands suitable preparation before approaching the sacraments, by giving due care to prayer and meditation. Wholly immersed in vain and worldly desires Jerusalem was indeed ill-prepared to see the King of Glory in the Man of Sorrows. Ritual and external practices of worship are praiseworthy and necessary, but preparation for the right use of grace is something far more searching and needful.

INTROIT *Philippians 4: 4-6*

Gaudete in Dómino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Dóminus enim prope est. Nihil sollíciti sitis: sed in omni oratione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. (Ps. 84: 2) Benedixísti, Dómine, terram tuam: avertísti captivitatem Jacob. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Gaudete in Dómino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Dóminus enim prope est. Nihil sollíciti sitis: sed in omni oratione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum.

COLLECT

Aurem tuam, quæsumus, Dómine, precibus nostris accommoda: et mentis nostrae tenebras, gratia tuæ visitationis illústra: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculorum.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4: 4-7*

Fratres, Gaudete in Dómino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit ómnibus hominibus: Dóminus prope est. Nihil sollíciti sitis: sed in omni oratione, et obsecratione, cum gratiarum actione, petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. Et pax Dei, quæ exsuperat omnem sensum, custodiat corda vestra, et intelligentias vestras, in Christo Jesu Dómino nostro.

GRADUAL *Psalms 79: 2, 3*

Qui sedes, Dómine, super Chérubim, excita potentiam tuam et veni. Qui regis Israël, inténde: Qui deducis velut ovem Joseph.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Excita Dómine potentiam tuam, et veni, ut salvos facias nos. Allelúja.

GOSPEL *John 1: 19-28*

In illo tempore: Misérunt Judæi ab Jerosólymis sacerdotes et levitas ad Joánnem ut interrogarent eum: Tu quis es? Et confessus est, et non negávit, et confessus est: Quia non sum ego Christus. Et interrogaverunt eum: Quid ergo? Elías es tu? Et dixit: Non sum. Prophéta es tu? Et respondit: Non. Dixerunt ergo ei: Quis es, ut responsum demus his qui miserunt nos? Quid dicis de te ipso? Ait: Ego vox clamantis in deserto: Dirigite viam Dómini, sicut dixit Isaías prophéta. Et qui missi fuerant erant ex pharisæis. Et interrogaverunt eum, et dixerunt ei: Quid ergo baptizas, si tu non es Christus, neque Elías, neque prophéta? Respondit eis Joánnes, dicens: Ego baptizo in aqua: médius autem vestrum stetit, quem vos nescitis. Ipse est, qui post me venturus est: qui ante me factus est cujus ego non sum dignus ut solvam ejus corrigiam calceamenti. Hæc in Bethánia facta sunt trans Jordánem, ubi erat Joánnes baptizans.

OFFERTORY *Psalms 84: 2-3*

Benedixísti, Dómine, terram tuam; avertísti captivitatem Jacob: remisísti iniquitatem plebis tuæ.

SECRET

Devotionis nostrae tibi, quæsumus, Dómine, hóstia júgiter immolétur: quæ et sacri peragat instituta mysterii, et salutare tuum in nobis mirabiliter operétur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculorum.

PREFACE OF ADVENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Quem pèrdito hóminum géneri Salvátorem miséricors et fidélis promisiísti: cujus véritas instrúeret íncios, sancítitas justificáret ímpios, virtus adjuváret infirmos. Dum ergo prope est ut véniat quem missurus es, et dies affúget liberatiónis nostræ, in hac promissiónis tuarum fide, piis gáudiis exultámus. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni militia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION *Isaiah 35: 4*

Dícite: pusillánimes confortámini, et nolíte timére: ecce Deus noster véniet, et salvábit nos.

POSTCOMMUNION

Implorámus, Dómine, cleméntiam tuam: ut hæc divína subsidiá, a vítiis expiátos ad festa ventúra nos præparet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculorum.

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men: for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous: but in everything by prayer let your petitions be made known to God. (Ps. 84: 2) Lord, Thou hast blessed Thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. 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. Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men: for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous: but in everything by prayer let your petitions be made known to God.

Incline Thine ear, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to our petitions: and, by the grace of Thy visitation, enlighten the darkness of our minds. Who lives and reigns, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men: The Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous: but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thou, O Lord, that sits upon the Cherubim, stir up Thy might and come. Give ear, O Thou that rules Israel: that leads Joseph like a sheep.

Alleluia, alleluia. Stir up, O Lord, Thy might, and come to save us. Alleluia.

At that time the Jews sent from Jerusalem priests and levites to John, to ask him: Who art thou? And he confessed: I am not the Christ. And they asked him: What then? Art thou Elias? And he said: I am not. Art thou the Prophet? And he answered: No. They said therefore unto him: Who art thou, that we may give an answer to them that sent us? He said: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the Prophet Isaías. And they that were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said to him: Why then dost thou baptize, if thou be not Christ, nor Elias, nor the Prophet? John answered them, saying: I baptize with water: but there hath stood one in the midst of you, whom you know not. The same is He that shall come after me, who is preferred before me: the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to loose. These things were done in Bethania, beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Lord, Thou hast blessed Thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob: Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of Thy people.

May the sacrifice of our devotion, we beseech Thee, O Lord, be always offered unto Thee: that it may both fulfill the end for which Thou didst institute this sacred mystery, and wonderfully work in us Thy salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who 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:

Say, ye faint-hearted, take courage and fear not: behold our God will come, and will save us.

We implore, O Lord, Thy mercy: that these divine helps may expiate our sins, and prepare us for the approaching feast. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.