

EASTER THURSDAY

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Under the high altar of the Church of the Twelve Apostles are preserved the relics of the Apostles Philip and James only. But the stational feast is celebrated in honor of all the Apostles together.

The Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles deals with the conversion of the treasurer of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians by Philip the deacon, not the Apostle. The Gospel gives the account of the appearance of the risen Savior to Mary Magdalen; this occurred before He showed Himself to the Apostles, but in the Liturgy it is put back until today on account of the respect for them. The words of Jesus to the Magdalen are very consoling; by the Resurrection, Our Lord has linked humanity to Himself by an intimate bond. Jesus is truly our Brother, God is in very deed our Father. By the death of Christ we have gained far more than we had lost by sin, and it is in this sense that the deacon sings in the Easter proclamation: "O happy fault, that was worthy of so great a Redeemer."

INTROIT Wisdom 10: 20-21

Victricem manum tuam, Dómine, laudavérunt páriter, allelúja: quia sapiéntia apéruit os mutum, et linguas infántium fecit disértas, allelúja. (Ps. 97: 1) Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum: quia mirabilia fecit. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Victricem manum tuam, Dómine, laudavérunt páriter, allelúja: quia sapiéntia apéruit os mutum, et linguas infántium fecit disértas, allelúja, allelúja.

COLLECT

Deus, qui diversitátem géntium in confessióne tui nóminis adunásti: da, ut renátis fonte baptísmatis una sit fides méntium, et píetas actiónum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Acts 8: 26-40

In diébus illis: Ángelus Dómini locútus est ad Philíppum, dicens: Surge et vade contra Jerúsalem ad viam, quæ descéndit ab Jerúsalem in Gazam: hæc est desérta. Et surgens ábiit. Et ecce, vir Æthiops eunúchus, potens Candácis regínæ Æthiópum, qui erat super omnes gazas ejus, vénerat adoráre in Jerúsalem: et revertebátur sedens super currum suum, legénsque Isaiam Prophétam. Dixit autem Spíritus Philíppo: Accéde et adjúnge te ad currum istum. Accúrens autem Philíppus, audivit eum legéntem Isaiám Prophétam, et dixit: Putásne, intélegis, quæ legis? Qui ait: Et quómodo possum, si non áliquis osténderit mihi? Rogavítque Philíppum, ut ascénderet et sedéret secum. Locus autem Scriptúræ, quam legébat, erat hic: Tamquam ovis ad occasiónem ductus est: et sicut agnus coram tondénte se, sine voce, sic non apéruit os suum. In humilitáte judícium ejus sublátum est. Generatiónem ejus quis enarrábit, quóniam tollétur de terra víta ejus? Respóndens autem eunúchus Philíppo, dixit: Óbsecro te, de quo Prophéta dicit hoc? de se, an de álio áliquo? Apériens autem Philíppus os suum, et incípiens a Scriptúra ista, evangelizávit illi Jesum. Et dum irent per viam, venérunt ad quamdam aquam: et ait eunúchus: Ecce aqua, quid próhibet me baptizári? Dixit autem Philíppus: Si credis ex toto corde, licet. Et respóndens, ait: Credo, Fílium Dei esse Jesum Christum. Et jussit stare currum: et descendérunt uterque in aquam. Philíppus et eunúchus, et baptizávit eum. Cum autem ascendissent de aqua, Spíritus Dómini rápuit Philíppum, et ámplius non vidit eum eunúchus. Ibat autem per viam suam gaudens. Philíppus autem invéntus est in Azóto, et pertránsiens evangelizábat civitátibus cunctis - donec veniret Cæsaréam - nomen Dómini Jesu Christi.

GRADUAL

Psalms 117: 24; 117: 22-23

Hæc dies, quam fecit Dóminus: exultémus et lætémur in ea. Lápídem, quem reprobavérunt ædificátes, hic factus est in caput ánguli: a Dómino factus est istud, et est mirábile in óculis nostris.

ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja, Surréxit Christus, qui creávit ómnia: et misértus est humáno géneri.

SEQUENCE

Victímæ pascháli laudes ímmolent Christiáni. Agnus redémit oves: Christus ínnocens Patri reconciliávit peccatóres. Mors et víta duéllo conflixére mirándo: Dux vitæ mórtuus, regnat vivus.

Dic nobis, María, quid vidísti in via? Sepúlchrum Christi vivéntis: et glóriam vidí resurgéntis, Angélicos testes, sudárium et vestes.

Surréxit Christus spes mea: præcédet vos in Galilæam. Scimus Christum surrexisse a mórtuis vere: tu nobis, victor Rex, miserére. Amen. Allelúja.

GOSPEL John 20: 11-18

In illo témpore: María stabat ad monuméntum foris, plorans. Dum ergo fleret, inclinávit se et prospéxit in monuméntum: et vidit duos Ángelos in albis, sedéntes, unum ad caput et unum ad pedes, ubi pósitum fúerat corpus Jesu. Dicunt ei illi: Mulier, quid ploras? Dicit eis: Quia nescíunt Patrem meum: et vidit Dóminum meum: Hæc cum dixisset, convérta est retrósum, et vidit Jesum stantem: et non sciébat, quia Jesus est. Dicit ei Jesus: Múlier, quid ploras? hortuláneris? Illa exístimans, quia hortuláneris esset, dixit ei: Dómine, si tu sustulísti eum, dícto mihi, ubi posuísti eum: et ego eum tollam. Dicit ei Jesus: María. Convérta illa, dicit ei: Rabbóni - quod dicitur Magíster. - Dicit ei Jesus: Noli me tángere, nondum ascéndi ad Patrem meum: vade autem ad fratres meos et dic eis: Ascéndo ad Patrem meum et Patrem vestrum, Deum meum et Deum vestrum. Venit María Magdaléne annúntians discípulis: Quia vidí Dóminum, et hæc dixit mihi.

OFFERTORY Exodus 13: 5

In die solemnitatís vestræ, dicit Dóminus, indúcam vos in terram fluéntem lac et mel, allelúja.

SECRET

Súscipe, quæsumus, Dómine, múnera populórum tuórum propítius: ut, confessióne tui nóminis et baptísmate renováti, sempitérnam beatitúdinem consequántur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF EASTER

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te quidem, Dómine, omni témpore, sed in hac potíssimum die, gloriósius prædicáre, cum Pascha nostrum immolátus est Christus. Ipse enim verus et agnus, qui ábstulit peccáta mundi. Qui mortem nostram moriéndo destrúxit, et vitam resurgéndo reparávit. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dóminis exércibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicétes:

COMMUNICANTES FOR EASTER

Communicantes, et diem sacratíssimum celebránte nos resurrectionis Dómini nostri Jesu Christi secúndum carnem: sed et memóriam venerátes, in primis gloriósa semper Vírginis Maríæ, Genetris Jesu Christi: sed et beatí Joseph, ejúsdem Vírginis Sponsi, et beatórum Apostolórum ac Máryrum tuórum, Petri et Pauli, Andréæ, Jacóbi, Joánnis, Thomæ, Jacóbi, Philíppi, Bartholomæi, Matthæi, Simónis, et Thaddæi: Lini, Cleti, Cleméntis, Xysti, Cornélii, Cypriáni, Lauréntii, Chrysógoni, Joánnis et Pauli, Cosmæ et Damiáni: et ómnium Sanctórum tuórum; quorum méritis, precibúsqve tuécédas, ut in ómnibus protectiónis tuæ muniámur auxíio. Per eúmdem Christum Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

HANC IGITUR FOR EASTER

Hanc igitur oblatiōnem servitūis nostræ, sed et cunctæ familiæ tuæ, quam tibi offerimus pro his quoque, quos regenerare dignatus es ex aqua, et Spíritu Sancto, tribuens eis remissionem ómnium peccatórum, quæsumus, Dómine, ut placátus accípias: diésque nostros in tua pace dispónas, atque ab æténa damnatióne nos éripi, et in electórum tuórum júbeas grege numerári. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

COMMUNION 1 Peter 2: 9

Pópulus acquisitiónis, annuntiáte virtútes eius, allelúia: qui vos de ténebris vocávit in admirábile lumen suum, allelúja.

POSTCOMMUNION

Exáudi, Dómine, preces nostras: ut redemptiōnis nostræ sacrosáncta commércia, et víta nobis cōnferant præsentis auxílium, et gáudia sempitérna concílient. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

They praised with one accord Thy victorious hand, O Lord, alleluia; for wisdom opened the mouth of the dumb, and made the tongues of infants eloquent, alleluia, alleluia. (Ps. 97: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle; for He hath done wonderful things. 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. They praised with one accord Thy victorious hand, O Lord, alleluia; for wisdom opened the mouth of the dumb, and made the tongues of infants eloquent, alleluia, alleluia.

O God, Who hast united a diversity of the people in the confession of Thy name, grant that there may be one faith in the minds and one piety in the deeds of those born again in the waters of baptism. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days, an Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying: Arise, go toward the south, to the way that goeth down from Jerusalem to Gaza: this is desert. And rising up, he went; and behold a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch, of great authority under Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge over all her treasures, had come to Jerusalem to adore. And he was returning, sitting in his chariot, and reading Isaias the prophet. And the Spirit said to Philip: Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip running thither, heard him reading the prophet Isaias; and he said: Thinkest thou that thou understandest what thou readeest? Who said: And how can I, unless some man show me? and he desired Philip that he would come up, and sit with him. And the place of the Scripture which he was reading was this: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb without voice before His shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in humility His judgment was taken away: His generation, who shall declare; for His life shall be taken from the earth? And the eunuch answering Philip said: I beseech thee, of whom doth the prophet speak this; of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opening his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came to a certain water: and the eunuch said: See here is water, what doth hinder me from being baptized? And Philip said: If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest: and he answering, said: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down into the water both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they were come out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found in Azotus, and passing through, he preached the Gospel to all the cities (till he came to Cæsarea), the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the day which the Lord hath made: let us be glad and rejoice therein. The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: this is the work of the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, Who created all things, and Who had compassion upon the human race.

Christians! to the Paschal Victim offer your praises. The Lamb the sheep redeemeth: Christ, sinless, reconcileth sinners to the Father. Death and life contended in that conflict stupendous: The Prince of Life, Who died, reigneth alive. Speak to us, Mary, what thou sawest on your way? "The tomb of Christ who now liveth: and likewise the glory of the Risen. Angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. Christ my hope is arisen: to Galilee He goeth before you." We know that Christ is risen truly from the dead: have mercy on us, Thou Victor King. Amen. Alleluia.

At that time, Mary stood at the sepulcher without, weeping. Now as she was weeping, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher; and she saw two angels in white, sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been laid. They say to her: Woman, why weepest thou? She saith to them: Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him. When she had thus said, she turned her self back, and saw Jesus standing; and she knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith to her: Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She thinking it was the gardener, saith to Him: Sir, if thou hast taken Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him; and I will take Him away. Jesus saith to her: Mary. She turning, saith to Him: Rabboni (which is to say, Master). Jesus saith to her: Do not touch Me; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say to them, I ascend to My Father, and to your Father; to My God, and your God. Mary Magdalen cometh and telleth the disciples: I have seen the Lord, and these things He said to Me.

In the day of your solemnity, saith the Lord, I will bring you into a land that floweth with milk and honey, alleluia.

Graciously receive, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the gifts of Thy people, that, being renewed by the confession of Thy name and by baptism, they may attain eternal happiness. 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, at all times to praise Thee, O Lord, but more gloriously especially at this time above others when Christ our Pasch was sacrificed. For He is the true Lamb Who hath taken away the sins of the world: Who by dying hath destroyed our death: and by rising again hath restored us to life. 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 the most holy day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh and also reverencing the memory, first, of the glorious Mary, ever Virgin, Mother of the same our God and Lord Jesus Christ: as also of blessed Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin, of the 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.

We therefore beseech Thee, O Lord, graciously to accept this oblation of our service, as also of Thy whole family, which we make unto Thee on behalf of these whom Thou hast vouchsafed to bring to a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, granting them remission of all their sins: and to dispose our days in Thy peace, preserve us from eternal damnation and rank us in the number of Thine Elect. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Purchased people, declare His virtues, alleluia: Who hath called you out of darkness into His admirable light, alleluia.

Give ear unto our prayers, O Lord, that the most holy dealings of our redemption may obtain help for us in the present life and purchase everlasting joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.