

The Collect begs almighty God to illuminate our minds with His heavenly light, so that the Lenten fast may not only discipline our bodies, but may render our souls both contrite and earnest.

The Lesson from Ezechiel describes a scene frequently reproduced in the cubical of the ancient cemeteries. It teaches the docility with which the soul entrusts itself to the care of the divine Shepherd, Who keeps it from all danger, and renders it the object of his heart's tenderest solicitude.

INTROIT Psalms 122: 2

Sicut óculi servórum in mánibus dominórum suórum: ita óculi nostri ad Dóminum, Deum nostrum, donec misereátur nobis: miserére nobis, Dómine, miserére nobis. (Ps. 122: 1) Ad te levávi óculos meos: qui hábitas in cælis, Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Sicut óculi servórum in mánibus dominórum suórum: ita óculi nostri ad Dóminum, Deum nostrum, donec misereátur nobis: miserére nobis, Dómine, miserére nobis.

COLLECT

Convérte nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et, ut nobis jejúnium quadragesimále proficiat, mentes nostras cæléstibus ínstrue disciplínis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas Aquinas

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam beáti Thomæ Confessóris tui mira eruditóne claríficas, et sancta operatióne fecúndas: da nobis, quæsumus; et quæ dócuit, intelléctu conspícere, et quæ egit, imitatióne complére. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ezechiel 34: 11-16

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Ecce, ego ipse requíram oves meas, et visitábo eas. Sicut vísitat pastor gregem suum in die, quando fúerit in médio óvium suárum dissipátarum: sic visitábo oves meas, et liberábo eas de ómnibus locis, in quibus dispérsæ fúerant in die nubis et caliginis. Et edúcam eas de pópulis, et congregábo eas de terris, et indúcam eas in terram suam: et pascam eas in móntibus Israël, in rivis, et in cunctis sédibus terræ. In páscuis ubérrimis pascam eas, et in móntibus excélsis Israël erunt páscua eárum: ibi requiescent in herbis viréntibus, et in páscuis pínguibus pascéntur super montes Israël. Ego pascam oves meas, et ego eas accubáre faciám, dicit Dóminus Deus. Quod perferat, requíram; et quod abjéctum erat, redúcam; et quod infirmum fúerat, alligábo; et quod infirmum fúerat, consolidábo; et quod pingue et forte, custódiám: et pascam illas in iudício, dicit Dóminus omnipotens.

GRADUAL Psalms 83: 10, 9

Protéctor noster, áspice, Deus, et réspice super servos tuos. Dómine, Deus virtútum, exáudi preces servórum tuórum.

TRACT Psalms 102: 10

Dómine, non secúndum peccáta nostra, quæ fécimus nos: neque secúndum iniquitátes nostras retribuas nobis. (Ps. 78: 8-9) Dómine, ne memínaris iniquitátum nostrárum antiquárum: cito anticipent nos misericórdiæ tuæ, quia páuperes facti sumus nimis. (*Here kneel.*) Ádjuva nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et propter glóriam nóminis tui, Dómine, líbera nos: et propítius esto peccátis nostris, propter nomen tuum.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 31-46

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis: Cum vénerit Fílius hóminis in majestáte sua, et omnes Ángeli cum eo, tunc sedébit super sedem majestátis suæ: et congregabúntur ante eum omnes gentes, et separábit eos ab ínvicem, sicut pastor ségregat oves ab hædis: et státuet oves quidem a dextris suis, hædos autem a sinístris. Tunc dicet Rex his, qui a dextris ejus erunt: Veníte, benedícti Patris mei, possidéte parátum vobis regnum a constitutióne mundi. Esurívi enim, et dedístis mihi manducáre; sitívi, et dedístis mihi bíbere; hospes eram, et collegístis me; nudus, et cooperuístis me; infirmus, et visitástis me; in cárcere eram, et venistis ad me. Tunc respondébunt ei justí, dicétes: Dómine, quando te vídimus esuriéntem, et pávimus te; sitiéntem, et dedimus tibi potum? quando autem te vídimus hóspitem, et collegimus te? aut nudum, et cooperuimus te? aut quando te vídimus infirmum, aut in cárcere, et vénimus ad te? Et respóndens Rex, dicet illis: Amen, dico vobis: quámdiu fecístis uni ex his frátribus meis mínimis, mihi fecístis. Tunc dicet et his, qui a sinístris erunt: Discédite a me, maledícti, in ignem ætérnum, qui parátus est diábolo et ángelis ejus. Esurívi enim, et non dedístis mihi manducáre; sitívi, et non dedístis mihi potum; hospes eram, et non collegístis me; nudus, et non cooperuístis me; infirmus et in cárcere, et non visitástis me. Tunc respondébunt ei et ipsi, dicétes: Dómine, quando te vídimus esuriéntem, aut sitiéntem, aut hóspitem, aut nudum, aut infirmum, aut in cárcere, et non ministrávimus tibi? Tunc respondébit illis, dicens: Amen, dico vobis: Quámdiu non fecístis uni de minóribus his, nec mihi fecístis. Et ibunt hi in supplicium ætérnum: justí autem in vitam ætérnam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 118: 18, 26, 73

Levábo óculos meos, et considerábo mirabília tua; dá mihi, ut dóceas me discam mandáta tua.

SECRET

Múnera tibi, Dómine, obláta sanctífica: nosque a peccatórum nostrórum máculis emúndet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas Aquinas

Sancti Thomæ Confessóris tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre agere: tibi semper et ubíque omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cóprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largiris et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes, Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicétes:

COMMUNION Matthew 25: 40, 34

Amen, dico vobis: quod uni ex mínimis meis fecístis, mihi fecístis: veníte, benedícti Patris mei, possidéte parátum vobis regnum ab ínítio sæculi.

POSTCOMMUNION

Salutáris tui, Dómine, múnere satiáti, súpplices exorámus: ut, cujus lætámur gustu, renovémur efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas Aquinas

Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrificia dent salutém, béatus Thomas Conféssor tuus, et Doctor egrégíus, quæsumus, precátor accédát. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Humiliáte cápita vestra Deo. Absólve, quæsumus, Dómine, nostrórum víncula peccatórum: et, quidquid pro eis merémur, propitiátus avérte. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

As the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters, so are our eyes on the Lord, our God, till He have mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. (Ps. 122: 1) To Thee I lift up my eyes, Who are enthroned in heaven. 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. As the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters, so are our eyes on the Lord, our God, till He have mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

O God, our Savior, direct our minds by Thine heavenly teaching, so that the Lenten fast may profit us. 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 God, Who dost enlighten Thy Church with the wondrous learning of blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor, and dost make it fruitful with his holy labors, grant us, we beseech Thee, both to understand what he taught and to imitate what he practiced. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thus says the Lord God: I Myself will look after and tend My sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend My sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places. In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I Myself will pasture My sheep; I Myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, and that which is fat and strong I will preserve, and I will feed them in judgment, says the Lord almighty.

Behold, O God, our Protector, and look upon Thy servants. O Lord God of Hosts, hear the prayers of Thy servants.

O Lord, repay us not according to the sins we have committed, nor according to our iniquities. (Ps. 78: 8-9) O Lord, remember not our former iniquities, let Thy mercies speedily prevent us; for we are become exceedingly poor. (*Here kneel.*) Help us, O God, our Savior, and for the glory of Thy name, O Lord, deliver us: and forgive us our sins for Thy name's sake.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: When the Son of Man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory; and before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on his right hand: Come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; naked and you covered Me; sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the just will answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, and feed Thee; or thirsty, and give Thee to drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger, and take Thee in; or naked, and clothe Thee? Or when did we see Thee sick, or in prison, and come to Thee? And, answering, the king will say to them: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of My brethren, you did it for Me. Then He will say to those on His left hand: Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you did not give Me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me. Then they also will say: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to Thee? Then He will answer them, saying: Amen I say to you, as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for Me. And these will go into everlasting, punishment, but the just into everlasting life.

I will lift up my eyes, that I may consider Thy wonders, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes; give me discords that I may learn Thy commands.

Sanctify the gifts offered unto Thee, O Lord, and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

May the holy prayer of St. Thomas, Thy Confessor and Doctor, fail us not, O Lord: may it render our offerings acceptable, and ever obtain for us Thy pardon. 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 fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards; through Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Amen I say to you: What you did for one of these, the least of My brethren, you did for Me: come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Refreshed by the sacramental gift of Thy salvation, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that, enjoying its savor, we may be made new by its action. 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 order that Thy sacrifices may render salvation to us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor and illustrious Doctor, may act as intercessor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Bow down your heads before God. Loose the bonds of our sins, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and mercifully turn aside whatever punishment we deserve for them. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.