

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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In the Epistle to the Ephesians read as the Lesson for today, St. Paul speaks very appropriately of the divine light and its fruits, which are first described in their negative aspect, when he warns his hearers against sensual pleasures, evil-speaking, and covetousness, and then in their positive aspect: goodness, and justice, and truth.

The Church celebrates her solemn stations in the sanctuaries of the martyrs in order to remind us that we are the heirs of their spiritual patrimony. Their blood cemented the first Christian edifice, and we, as children of the martyrs, possess their sepulchers and the places sanctified by their confession, inasmuch as we succeed them in the profession of the same faith.

INTROIT Psalms 24: 15-16

Óculi mei semper ad Dóminum, quia ipse evéllit de láqueo pedes meos: réspice in me, et miserére mei, quóniam únicus et pauper sum ego. (Ps. 24: 1, 2) Ad te, Dómine, levávi ánimam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubéscam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Óculi mei semper ad Dóminum, quia ipse evéllit de láqueo pedes meos: réspice in me, et miserére mei, quóniam únicus et pauper sum ego.

COLLECT

Quæsumus, omnípotens Deus, vota humílium réspice: atque ad defensióne nostram, dexteram tuæ majestátis exténde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Ephesians 5: 1-9

Fratres: Estóte imitatóres Dei, sicut filii caríssimi: et ambuláte in dilectióne, sicut et Christus diléxit nos, et trádídít semetípsum pro nobis oblatiōnem et hóstiam Deo in odórem suavitatís. Fornicatio autem et omnis immundítia aut avarítia nec nominétur in vobis, sicut decet sanctos: aut turpitúdo, aut stultilóquium, aut scurrílitás, quæ ad rem non pértinet: sed magis gratiárum áctio. Hoc enim scitóte intelligétes, quod omnis fornicatór, aut immúndus aut avárus, quod est idolórum sérvitus, non habet hereditátem in regno Christi et Dei. Nemo vos sedúcat inánibus verbis: propter hæc enim venit ira Dei in filios diffidéntiæ. Nolíte ergo éffici partícipes eórum. Erátis enim aliquándó ténebræ: nunc autem lux in Dómino. Ut filii lucis ambuláte: fructus enim lucis est in omni bonitáte, et justítia, et veritáte.

GRADUAL Psalms 9: 20, 4

Exsúrge, Dómine, non præváleat homo: judicéntur gentes in conspéctu tuo. In converténdo inimícum meum retrórsum, infirmabúntur, et peribunt a fácie tua.

TRACT Psalms 122: 1-3

Ad te levávi óculos meos, qui hábitas in cælis. Ecce, sicut óculi servórum in má nibus dominórum suórum. Et sicut óculi ancillæ in má nibus dómínæ suæ: ita óculi nostri ad Dóminum, Deum nostrum, donec misereátur nostri. Miserére nobis, Dómine, miserére nobis.

GOSPEL Luke 11: 14-28

In illo témpore: Erat Jesus ejiciens dæmónium, et illud erat mutum. Et cum eiecísset dæmónium, locúsus est mutus, et admirátæ sunt turbæ. Quidam autem ex eis dixerunt: In Beélzebul príncipe dæmoniórum ejicit dæmónia. Et álíi tentántes, signum de cælo quærébant ab eo. Ipse autem ut vidit cogitatiónes eórum, dixit eis: Omne regnum in seípsum divísium desolábitur, et domus supra domum cadet. Si autem et sátanas in seípsum divísus est, quómodo stabit regnum ejus? quia dicitis, in Beélzebul me ejícere dæmónia. Si autem ego in Beélzebul ejício dæmónia, filii vestri in quo ejiciunt? Ideo ipsi júdices vestri erunt. Porro si in dígito Dei ejício dæmónia: profécto pervénit in vos regnum Dei. Cum fórtis armátus custódit átrium suum, in pace sunt ea, quæ póssidet. Si autem fórtior eo supervéniens vícerit eum, univérsa arma ejus áuferet, in quibus confidébat, et spólia ejus distríbuet. Qui non est mecum, contra me est: et qui non cólligit mecum, dispérgit. Cum immúndus spirítus exierit de hómine, ámbulat per loca inaquósa, quærrens réquiem: et non invéniens, dicit: Revérta r in domum meam unde exívi. Et cum vénerit, invenit eam scopis mundátam, et ornátam. Tunc vadit, et assúmit septem álíos spirítus secum nequíores se, et ingrési hábitant ibi. Et fiunt novíssima hóminis illíus pejóra prióribus. Factum est autem, cum hæc diceret: extóllens vocem quædam múlier de turba, dixit illi: Beátus venter qui te portávit, et úbera, quæ suxísti. At ille dixit: Quinimmo beáti qui áudiunt verbum Dei, et custódiunt illud.

OFFERTORY Psalms 18: 9-12

Justítiæ Dómini rectæ, lætificántes corda, et júdicia ejus dulcióra super mel et favicam: nam et servus tuus custódit ea.

SECRET

Hæc hóstia, Dómine, quæsumus, emúndet nostra delánda: et ad sacríficium celebránda: ad additórum tibi córpora mentésque sanctíficet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia déprimis, 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 Psalms 83: 4-5

Passer invénit sibi domum, et turtur nidum, ubi repónat pullos suos: altária tua, Dómine virtútum, Rex meus, et Deus meus: beáti, qui hábitant in domo tua, in sæculum sæculi laudábunt te.

POSTCOMMUNION

A cunctis nos, quæsumus, Dómine, reátibus et periculis propitiátus absólve: quos tanti mystérii tribuis esse partícipes. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

My eyes are ever towards the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the snare: look Thou upon me, and have mercy on me: for I am alone and poor. (Ps. 24: 1, 2) To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust, let me not be ashamed. 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. My eyes are ever towards the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the snare: look Thou upon me, and have mercy on me: for I am alone and poor.

Humbling ourselves before Thee, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, favorably to regard the desires of our heart: and in our defense to stretch forth the right hand of Thy Majesty. 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: Be ye followers of God, as most dear children: and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath delivered Himself for us, an oblation and a sacrifice to God for an odor of sweetness. But fornication, and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not so much as be named among you, as becometh saints: or obscenity, or foolish talking, or scurrility, which is to no purpose: but rather giving of thanks. For know you this, and understand, that no fornicator, or unclean or covetous person, which is a serving of idols, hath inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the anger of God upon the children of unbelief. Be ye not therefore partakers with them. For you were heretofore darkness: but now light in the Lord. Walk then as children of the light: for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, and justice, and truth.

Arise, O Lord, let not man be strengthened: let the nations be judged in Thy sight. When my enemy shall be turned back, they shall be weakened and perish before Thy face.

To Thee have I lifted up my eyes, Who dwellest in heaven. Behold as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters. And as the eyes of the handmaid are on the hands of her mistress: so are our eyes unto the Lord our God, until He have mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

At that time Jesus was casting out a devil, and the same was dumb. And when He had cast out the devil, the dumb spoke, and the multitudes were in admiration at it. But some of them said: He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. And others, tempting, asked of Him a sign from Heaven. But He, seeing their thoughts, said to them: Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation, and house upon house shall fall. And if Satan also be divided against himself, how shall this kingdom stand? Because you say that through Beelzebub I cast out devils. Now if I cast out devils by Beelzebub, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they shall be your judges. But if I by the finger of God cast out devils: doubtless the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his court, those things are in peace which he possesseth. But if a stronger than he come upon him and overcome him, he will take away all his armor wherein he trusted, and will distribute his spoils. He that is not with Me is against Me: and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through places without water, seeking rest: and not finding, he saith: I will return into my house whence I came out. And when he is come, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there. And the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea, rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing hearts, and His judgments are sweeter than honey and the honey-comb; for Thy servant keepeth them.

May this victim, we beseech Thee, O Lord, cleanse away our sins, sanctifying Thy servants in both soul and body for the celebration of this sacrifice. 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:

The sparrow hath found herself a house, and the turtle a nest, where she may lay her young ones: Thy altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King, and My God: blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, they shall praise Thee for ever and ever.

From all guilt and perils, we beseech Thee, Lord, mercifully release us, whom Thou dost grant to be partakers of such a mystery. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.