

The Mass sets forth the emptiness of external ceremonies where these are not accompanied by an internal spirit of true repentance. The Gospel sets forth the Christian law of love and good-will toward our neighbor. To return the courtesy of others with equal grace is a rule of good manners that even pagans may practice, but, in order to be able to pardon injuries, to do good without hope of return, we need the example, the command, and the grace of Jesus Christ.

INTROIT Psalms 29:11

Audívit Dóminus, et misértus est mihi: Dóminus factus est adjútor meus. (Ps. 29: 2) Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepísti me: nec delectásti inimícos meos super me. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítu Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Audívit Dóminus, et misértus est mihi: Dóminus factus est adjútor meus.

COLLECT

Inchoáta favéna, quæsumus, Dómine, benigno favóre proséquere: ut observántiam, quam corporalíter exhibémus, méntibus étiám sincéris exercére valeámus. 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 Ecclesiám tuam beáti Thomæ Confessorís tui mira eruditíone claríficas, et sancta operatióne fecúndas: da nobis, quæsumus; et quæ dócuit, intelléctum 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 Isaiah 58:1-9

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Clama, ne cesses: quasi tuba exálta vocem tuam: et annúntia pópulo meo scélera eórum, et dómui Jacob peccáta eórum. Me étenim de die in diem quærunt, et scire vías meas volunt: quasi gens, quæ justítiam fécerit, et júdicium Dei sui non dereliquerit: rogant me júdicia justítiae: appropinquáre Deo volunt. Quare jejunávimus, et non asperxísti: humiliávimus ánimas nostras, et nescísti? Ecce, in die jejúnii vestri invénitur volúntas vestra, et omnes debitóres vestros repétitis. Ecce, ad lítes et contentiónes jejunátis, et percúttitis pugno ímpie. Nolíte jejunáre sicut usque ad hanc diem, ut audiátur in excélsis clamor vester. Numquid tale est jejúnium, quod elégi, per diem affligere hóminem ánimam suam? numquid contorquére quasi círculum caput suum, et saccum et cínerem stérnere? numquid istud vocábis jejúnium, et diem acceptábilem Dómino? Nonne hoc est magis jejúnium quod elégi? dissólve colligatiónes impietátis, solve fascículos deprímétes: dímítte eos, qui confrácti sunt, líberos, et omne onus dirúmpe. Frange esurienti panem tuum, et egénos vagósque induc in domum tuam: cum videris nudum, óperi eum, et carnem tuam ne despéxeris. Tunc erúmpet quasi mane lumen tuum, et sánitas tua cítius oriétur, et anteíbit fáciem tuam justítia tua, et glória Dómini colliget te. Tunc invocábis, et Dóminus exáudiet: clamábis, et dicet: Ecce, adsum. Quia miséricors sum, Dóminus, Deus tuus.

GRADUAL Psalms 26: 4

Unam pétii a Dómino, hanc requíram, ut inhábitem in domo Dómini. Ut vídeam voluptátem Dómini, et prótegar a templo sancto ejus.

TRACT Psalms 102: 10

Dómine, non secúndum peccáta nostra, quæ fécimus nos: neque secúndum iniquitátes nostras retribuas nobis. (Ps. 78: 8, 9) Dómine, ne memíneris iniquitátum nostrárum antiquárum: cito antícipent nos misericórdiæ tuæ, quia páuperes facti sumus nímis. (*Hic genuflectitur.*) Adjuva nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et propter glóriam nóminis tui, Dómine, líbera nos: et propítius esto peccátis nostris, propter nomen tuum.

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 43-48; 6: 1-4

In illo tépore: Dixit Jesus discípulis suis: Audístis, quia dictum est: Diliges próximum tuum, et ódio habébis inimícum tuum. Ego autem dico vobis: Dilígite inimícos vestros, benefácite his, qui odéréntibus et calumniántibus vos, ut sitis filii Patris vestri, qui in cælis est: qui solem suum oríri facit super bonos et malos, et pluit super justos et injústos. Si enim dilígitis eos, qui vos dilígunt, quam mercedem habébitis? nonne et publicáni hoc faciunt? Et si salutavéritis fratres vestros tantum, quid ámplius fáctis? nonne et éthnici hoc faciunt? Estóte ergo vos perfécti, sicut et Pater vester cæléstis perféctus est. Atténdite, ne justítiam vestram faciátis coram homínibus, ut videámmini ab eis: alióquin mercédem non habébitis apud Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Cum ergo facis eleemósynam, noli tuba cánere ante te, sicut hypócricitæ faciunt in synagógis et in vicis, ut honorificéntur ab homínibus. Amen, dico vobis, recepérunt mercédem suam. Te autem faciénte eleemósyna, nesciat dextera tua, quid faciás déxtera tua in abscondito, et Pater tuus, qui videt in abscondito, reddet tibi.

OFFERTORY Psalms 118: 154, 125

Dómine, vivífica me secúndum elóquium tuum: ut sciam testimónia tua.

SECRET

Sacrificium, Dómine, observántiæ quadragesimális, quod offerimus, præsta, quæsumus: ut tibi et mentes nostras reddat accéptas, et continéntiæ promptióri nobis tribuat facultátem. 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 Confessorís tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra conciliet; 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, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporalí jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largírís et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum laudant Ángeli, adoránt Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et precare voces ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súplici confessiõe dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 2:11-12

Servíte Dómino in timóre, et exsultáte ei cum plinám, ne pereátis de via justa.

POSTCOMMUNION

Spíritum nobis, Dómine, tuæ cantátis infúnde: ut, quos uno pane cælésti satiásti, tua faciás pietáte concórdes. 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 salutem: beátus Thomas Confessor tuus, et Doctor egrégíus, quæsumus, precátor accédad. 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. Tuére, Dómine, pópulum tuum et ab ómnibus peccátis cleméter emúnda: quia nulla ei nocébit advérsitas, si nulla ei dominétur iniquitas. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The Lord has heard, and has had pity on me; the Lord became my helper. (Ps. 29: 2) I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. 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. The Lord has heard, and has had pity on me; the Lord became my helper.

May Thy kindly favor, we beseech Thee, O Lord, accompany the fast we have begun, that we may be able to practice with a pure mind what we perform bodily. 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: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast; tell My people their wickedness, and the house of Jacob their sins. They seek Me day after day, and desire to know My ways, like a nation that has done what is just and not abandoned the law of their God; they ask Me to declare what is due them, pleased to gain access to God: Why do we fast, and Thou dost not see it? afflict ourselves, and Thou takest no note of it? Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits, and drive all your laborers. Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked fist. Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance: that a man bow his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and He will say: Here I am! For I, the Lord your God, am merciful.

One thing I ask the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord. That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and be protected by His holy temple.

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 exceeding 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, You have heard that it was said: You shall love your neighbour, and shall hate your enemy. But I say to you: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute and calumniate you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, Who makes His sun to rise on the good and the evil, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those that love you, what reward shall you have? Do not even the publicans do that? And if you salute your brethren only, what are you doing more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do that? You therefore are to be perfect, even as you heavenly Father is perfect. Take heed not to do your good before men, in order to be seen by them; otherwise you shall have no reward with your Father in heaven. Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and streets, in order that they may be honoured by men. Amen: I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be given in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you.

O Lord, for the sake of Thy promise give me life, that I may know Thy decrees.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that as we offer the sacrifice of Lent, our hearts may be made acceptable to Thee; and the sacrifice may give us greater willingness for self-denial. 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 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:

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before Him with trembling; embrace discipline, lest you perish from the just way.

Fill us, O Lord, with the spirit of Thy love, to unite in charity those whom Thou hast filled with one and the same heavenly Bread. 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. Watch over Thy people, O Lord, and mercifully cleanse them from all their sins; for no harm can come to them if no evil has power over 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.