

The Station on Ember Friday is regularly at the Church of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome. This arose from the founding of this Church at the same time when the Friday Liturgy became common. An ancient Roman custom of fasting strictly three days in the week was relaxed somewhat under Pope Callixtus and limited to the three periods of the harvest, the vintage, and the drawing off of the new wine.

The Introit bids us seek the Lord; the search after God is in the ancient rule of St. Benedict the one condition by which the vocation of aspirants to the religious life is to be judged. In the prayer we ask that to bodily abstinence we may add mental observances. The Postcommunion of today is used in many feasts of saints; we ask for greater benefits which can be none other than the grace of union with Jesus in heaven.

INTROIT Psalms 104: 3-4

Lætétur cor quæréntium Dóminum: quærít Dóminum, et confirmámini: quæríte faciém ejus semper. (Ps. 104: 1) Confitémíni Dómino et invocáte nomen ejus: annuntiáte inter gentes ópera ejus. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Lætétur cor quæréntium Dóminum: quærít e Dóminum, et confirmámini: quæríte faciém ejus semper.

COLLECT

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, observatiónes sacras ánnua devotióne recoléntes, et córpore tibi placeámus et mente. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas of Villanova

Deus, qui beátum Thomam Pontificem insignis in páuperes misericórdiæ virtúte decorásti: quæsumus; ut, ejus intercessióne, in omnes, qui te intercedántur, divítias misericórdiæ tuæ benígnus effúndas. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Osee 14: 2-10

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Convértere, Israel, ad Dóminum, Deum tuum: quóniam corruísti in iniquitáte tua. Tóllite vobíscum verba, et convertímíni ad Dóminum et dícite ei: Omnem aufer iniquitátem, áccipe bonum: e reddémus vítulos labiórum nostrórum. Assur non salvábit nos, super equum non ascendémus, nec dicémus ultra: Dii nostri ópera mánum nostrárum: quia ejus, qui in te est, miseréberis pupílli. Sanábo contritiónes eórum, díligam eos spontáneee: quia avérsus est furor meus ab eis. Ero quasi ros, Israë́l germinábit sicut lílium, et erúmpet radix ejus ut Líbani. Ibunt rami ejus, et erit quasi olíva glória ejus: et odor ejus ut Líbani. Converténtur sedéntes in umbra ejus: vivent trítico, et germinábunt quasi vínea: memoriále ejus sicut vinum Líbani. Ephraim quid mihi ultra idóla? ego exáudíam, et dírigam eum ego ut abíetem viréntem: ex me fructus tuos inventus est. Quis sapiens, et intélleget ista? intéllegens, et sciet hæc? Quia rectæ viæ Dómini, et justí ambulábunt in eis: prævaricatóres vero córruent in eis.

GRADUAL Psalms 89: 13, 1

Convértere, Dómine, aliquántulum, et deprecáre super servos tuos. Dómine, refúgium factus es nobis, a generatióne et progénie.

GOSPEL Luke 7: 36-50

In illo témpore: Rogábat Jesum quidam de pharisæís, ut manducáret cum illo. Et ingræssus domum pharisæi, discúbuit. Et ecce, múlier, quæ erit in civitáte peccátrix, ut cognóvit, quod accubíisset in domo pharisæi, áttulit alabástrum unguénti: et stans retro secus pedes ejus, lácrimis cœpít rigáre pedes ejus, et capíllis cœpítis sui tergébat, et osculabátur pedes ejus et unguénto unguébat. Videns autem pharisæus, qui vocáverat eum, ait intra se, dicens: Hic si esset Prophéta, sciret utique, quæ et qualis est múlier, quæ tangit eum: quia peccátrix est. Et respóndens Jesus, dixit ad illum: Simon, habeo tibi áliquíd dícere. At ille ait: Magíster, dic. Duo debitóres erant cuidam fæneratóri: unus debébat denários quingéntos, et álius quinquagínta. Non habéntibus illis, unde redderent, donávit utrisque. Quis ergo eum plus díligit? Respóndens Simon, dixit: Æstimo quia is, cui plus donávit. At ille dixit ei: Recte judicásti. Et convérsus ad mulierem, dixit Simóni: Vides hanc mulierem? Intrávi in domum tuam, aquam pedibus meis non dedísti: hæc autem lácrimis rigávit pedes meos et capíllis suis tersit. Oscuum mihi non dedísti: hæc autem, ex quo intrávit, non cessávit osculári pedes meos. Oleo caput meum non unxísti: hæc autem unguénto unxit pedes meos. Propter quod dico tibi: Remittúntur ei peccáta multa, quóniam diléxit multum. Cui autem minus dimíttitur, minus díligit. Dixit autem ad illam: Remittúntur tibi peccáta. Et coepérunt, qui simul accumbébant, dícere intra se: Quis est hic, qui étiam peccáta dimíttit? Dixit autem ad mulierem: Fides tua te salvam fecit: vade in pace.

OFFERTORY Psalms 102: 2, 5

Benedíc, anima mea, Dómino, et noli oblivísci omnes retributiónes ejus: et renovábitur, sicut áquilæ, juvéntus tua.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sint, Dómine, quæsumus, nostri dona jejúnii: quæ et expiándo nos tua grátia dignos effíciant, et ad sempitérna promíssa perdúcant. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas of Villanova

Sancti Thomæ Confessóris tui atque Pontíficis, quæsumus, Dómine, ánnua solémnitas pietáti tuæ nos reddat accéptos: ut, per hæc piæ placatiónis officia, et illum beáta retribútio comitétur, et nobis grátia tuæ dona concíliet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 118: 22, 24

Aufer a me oppróbrium et contéptum, quóniam mandáta tua exquisívi, Dómine: nam et testimónia tua meditátió mea est.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, de percéptis munéribus grátias exhibéntes, benefícia potióra sumámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For St. Thomas of Villanova

Deus, fidélium remunerátor animárum: præsta; ut beáti Thomæ Confessóris tui atque Pontíficis, cujus venerándam celebrámus festivitátem, préciibus indulgéntiam consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord: seek the Lord, and be strengthened; seek His face evermore. (Ps. 104: 1) Give glory to the Lord, and call upon His name; declare His deeds among the gentiles. 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. Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord: seek the Lord, and be strengthened; seek His face evermore.

We beseech Thee, O almighty God, grant that as year by year we devoutly keep these sacred fasts, we may please Thee both in body and mind. 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 didst adorn blessed Thomas, Thy bishop, with the virtue of a consuming charity for the poor, we beseech Thee that, through his intercession, Thou graciously pour forth the riches of Thy mercy upon all who pray to Thee. 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 saith the Lord God: Return, O Israel, to the Lord thy God: for thou hast fallen down by thy iniquity. Take with you words, and return to the Lord, and say to him: Take away all iniquity, and receive the good: and we will render the calves of our lips. Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride upon horses, neither will we say any more: The works of our hands are our gods, for thou wilt have mercy on the fatherless that is in thee. I will heal their breaches, I will love them freely: for my wrath is turned away from them. I will be as the dew, Israel shall spring as the lily, and his root shall shoot forth as that of Libanus. His branches shall spread, and his glory shall be as the olive tree: and his smell as that of Libanus. They shall be converted that sit under his shadow: they shall live upon wheat, and they shall blossom as a vine: his memorial shall be as the wine of Libanus. Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I will hear him, and I will make him flourish like a green fir tree: from me is thy fruit found. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know these things? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall in them.

Return, O Lord, a little and be entreated in favor of Thy servants. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge, from generation to generation.

At that time one of the Pharisees desired Jesus to eat with him. And He went into the house of the Pharisee and sat down to meat. And behold a woman that was in the city, a sinner, when she knew that He sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment. And standing behind at His feet, she began to wash His feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with the ointment. And the Pharisee, who had invited Him, seeing it, spoke within Himself, saying: This man, if He were a prophet, would know surely who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him, that she is a sinner. And Jesus answering, said to him: Simon, I have somewhat to say to thee. But he said: Master, say it. A certain creditor had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence and the other fifty. And whereas they had not wherewith to pay, he forgave them both. Which therefore of the two loveth him most? Simon answering, said: I suppose that he to whom he forgave most. And He said to him: Thou hast judged rightly. And turning to the woman, He said unto Simon: Dost thou see this woman? I entered into thy house: thou gavest Me no water for My feet. But she with tears hath washed My feet; and with her hairs hath wiped them. Thou gavest Me no kiss. But she, since she came in, hath not ceased to kiss My feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint. But she with ointment hath anointed My feet. Wherefore, I say to thee: Many sins are forgiven her, because she hath loved much. But to whom less is forgiven, he loveth less. And He said to her: Thy sins are forgiven thee. And they that sat at meat with Him began to say within themselves: Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And He said to the woman: Thy faith hath made thee safe. Go in peace.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; and your youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.

May the gift of our fasting, we beseech You, O Lord, be acceptable to You, and by its purifying power make us worthy of Your grace and bring us to the eternal bliss you have promised 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.

May the annual festival of blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor and Bishop, we beseech Thee, O Lord, render us pleasing to Your loving kindness, so that this service of sacred propitiation may be a blessed recompense for him and secure for us the gifts of Thy grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Remove from me reproach and contempt, because I have sought out Thy commandments, O Lord; for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

We thank Thee, almighty God, for the gifts we have received, and beseech Thee to grant us yet greater benefits. 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 rewards faithful souls, grant that, through the prayers of blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor and Bishop, whose hallowed feast we are keeping, we may obtain pardon for 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.