

# EMBER WEDNESDAY WITH COMMEMORATION OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM

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The Liturgy of the Ember Day fasts possessed originally a distinctly festive quality, and was partly a festival of thanksgiving for the harvesting of the fruits of the season. These rustic feasts originated at Rome. The liturgy of this week has kept to a great extent unchanged its early festive character, which recalls so vividly the rural feasts of ancient Rome at the close of the vintage. The idea of a special preparation for the solemn Ordinations represents a later addition, which, however, dates from the time of Gelasius I.

The station on Ember Wednesday is, as a rule, at St. Mary Major, and the three Lessons in the Mass are a survival of the ancient Roman liturgical use, which recalls those very early times when, to the two Lessons from the Law and the Prophets, customary in the synagogues of the Dispersion, the Apostles added a third lesson taken from the Gospels. The passage from the Gospel of St. Mark (9:16-28) teaches that humble prayer and fasting, spiritualize our nature, which is thus raised to a supernatural state, and render it invulnerable to the fatal blows of Satan.

## INTROIT Psalms 80: 2-5

Exsultate Deo, adiutori nostro: jubilate Deo cithara: sumite psalmum cundum cum cithara: quonia praeceptum in Israel est, et iudicium Deo Jacob. (Ps. 80: 6) Testimonium in Joseph posuit illud, cum exiret de terra Aegypti: linguam, quam non noverat, audivit. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Exsultate Deo, adiutori nostro: jubilate Deo Jacob: sumite psalmum cundum cum cithara: canite in initio mensis tuba, quia praeceptum in Israel est, et iudicium Deo Jacob.

*(after Kyrie eleison)*

Flectamus genua.

R. Levate.

## COLLECT

Misericordiae tuae remedii, quaesumus, Domine, fragilitas nostra subsistat: ut, quae sua conditione atterritur, tua demencia reparetur. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

## LESSON Amos 9: 13-15

Haec dicit Dominus Deus: Ecce, dies veniunt: et comprehendet arator messorem, et calcator uvae mittentem semen: et stillabunt montes dulcedinem, et omnes colles culti erunt. Et convertam captivitatem populi mei Israel: et aedificabunt civitates desertas et inhabitabunt: et plantabunt vineas et bibent vinum eorum: et facient hortos et comedent fructus eorum. Et plantabo eos super humum suam: et non evellam eos ultra de terra sua, quam dedi eis: dicit Dominus, Deus tuus.

## GRADUAL Psalms 112: 5-7

Quis sicut Dominus, Deus noster, qui in altis habitat, et humilia respicit in caelo et in terra? Suscitans a terra inopem et de stercore erigens pauperem.

Dominus vobiscum

R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

## COLLECT

Præsta, quaesumus, Domine, familiae tuae supplicanti: ut, dum a cibis corporalibus se abstinere, a vitis quoque mente jejinet. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

*For of Our Lady of Ransom*

Deus, qui per gloriosissimam Filii tui Matrem, ad liberandos Christi fideles a potestate paganorum, nova Ecclesiam tuam prole amplificare dignatus es: præsta, quaesumus; ut, quam pie veneramur tanti operis institutricem, ejus pariter meritis et intercessione, a peccatis omnibus et captivitate daemones liberemur. Per eundem Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

## LESSON 2 Esdras 8: 1-10

In diebus illis: Congregatus est omnis populus ante virum ad plateam, quæ est antea portam aquarum: et dixerunt Esdræ scribæ, ut afferret librum legis Moysi, quam præceperat Dominus Israël. Attulit ergo Esdras sacerdos legem coram multitudinem virorum et mulierum, cunctisque qui poterant intelligere, in die prima mensis septimi. Et legit in eo aperte in platea, quæ erat ante portam aquarum, de mane usque ad mediam diem, in conspectu virorum et mulierum et sapientium: et aures omnis populi erant erectæ ad librum. Stetit autem Esdras scriba super gradum ligneum, quem fecerat ad loquendum. Et aperuit librum coram omni populo: super univrsam quippe populum eminabat: et cum aperuisset eum, stetit omnis populus. Et benedixit Esdras Domino, Deo magno: et respondit omnis populus: Amen, Amen: elevans manus suas: et incurvati sunt et adoraverunt Deum proni in terram. Porro levitæ silentium faciebant in populo ad audiendam legem: populus autem stabat in gradu suo. Et legerunt in libro legis Dei distincte et aperte ad intellegendum: et intellexerunt, cum legeretur. Dixit autem Nehemias, et Esdras sacerdotes et scriba, et levitæ interpretantes universo populo: Dies sanctificatus est Domino, Deo nostro, nolite lugere et nolite flere. Et dixit eis: Ite, comedite pinguis et bibite præparaverunt sibi: quia sanctus dies Domini est, et nolite contristari: gaudium etenim Domini est fortitudo nostra.

## GRADUAL Psalms 32: 12, 6

Beata gens, cujus est Dominus Deus eorum: populus, quem elegit Dominus in hereditate sibi. Verbo Domini caeli firmati sunt: et spiritu oris ejus omnis virtus eorum.

## GOSPEL Mark 9: 16-28

In illo tempore: Respondens unus de turba, dixit ad Jesum: Magister, attuli filium meum ad te, habentem spiritum mutum: qui, ubicumque eum apprehenderit, allidit illum, et spumat et stridet dentibus et arcescit: et dixi discipulis tuis, ut eiicerent illum, et non potuerunt. Qui respondens eis, dixit: O generatio incredula, quamdiu apud vos ero? quamdiu vos patiar? Afferte illum ad me. Et attulerunt eum. Et cum vidisset eum, statim spiritus conturbavit illum: et elisus in terram, volutabatur spumans. Et interrogavit patrem es: Quantum temporis est, ex quo ei hoc accidit? At ille ait: Ab infantia: et frequenter eum in ignem et in aquas misit, ut eum pederet. Sed si quid vises, adjuva nos, Domine. Et ait illi: Si potes credere, omnia possibilia sunt credenti. Et continuo exclamans pater pueri, cum lacrimis aiebat: Credo, Domine: adjuva incredulitatem meam. Et cum vidisset Jesus concurrerunt turbam, comminatus est spiritui immundo, dicens illi: Surde et mute spiritus, ego præcipio tibi, exi ab eo: et amplius ne intrahas in eum. Et exclamans et multos discipulos et in ignem et in aquas misit, ita ut multi dicerent: Quia mortuus est. Jesus autem tenens manum ejus, elevavit eum, et surrexit. Et cum introisset in domum, discipuli es secreto interrogabant eum: Quare nos non potuimus eiicere eum? Et dixit illis: Hoc genus in nullo potest exire nisi in oratione et jejunio.

## OFFERTORY Psalms 118: 47,48

Meditabor in mandatis tuis, quæ dilæxi valde: et levabo manus meas ad mandata tua, quæ dilæxi.

## SECRET

Hæc hostia, Domine, quaesumus, emundet nostra delicta: et ad sacrificium celebrandum, subditorum tibi corpora nostrum sanctificet. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

*For of Our Lady of Ransom*

Tua, Domine, propitiatio, et beatæ Mariæ semper Virginis intercessione, ad perpétuam atque præsentem hæc oblatio nobis proficiat prosperitatem et pacem. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

## COMMUNION 2 Esdras 8: 10

Comedite pinguis et bibite mulsum, et mittite partes his, qui non præparaverunt sibi: sanctus enim dies Domini est, nolite contristari: gaudium etenim Domini est fortitudo nostra.

## POSTCOMMUNION

Sumentes, Domine, dona caelestia, suppliciter deprecamur: ut, quæ sedula servitute, donante te, gerimus, dignis sentsibus tuo munere capiamus Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

*For of Our Lady of Ransom*

Sumptis, Domine, salutis nostræ subsidiis: da, quaesumus, beatæ Mariæ semper Virginis patrocinis nos ubique protegi: in cujus veneratione hæc tuae oblationis majestati. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

Rejoice to God our helper: sing aloud to the God of Jacob: take a pleasant psalm to the God of Jacob: blow the trumpet in the beginning of the month, for it is a commandment in Israel, and a judgment to the God of Jacob. (Ps. 80: 6) He ordained it for a testimony in Joseph, when he came out of Egypt: he heard a tongue which he knew not. 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. Rejoice to God our helper: sing aloud to the God of Jacob: take a pleasant psalm with the harp; blow the trumpet in the beginning of the month, for it is a commandment in Israel, and a judgment to the God of Jacob.

Let us kneel.

R. Arise.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that our weakness may be upheld by Thy healing mercy, so that what of itself is falling into ruin may be restored by Thy clemency. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thus saith the Lord God: Behold the days come, when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seeds, and the mountains shall drop sweetness, and every hill shall be tilled. And I will bring back the captivity of My people Israel, and they shall build the abandoned cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine of them; and shall make gardens, and eat the fruits of them: and I will plant them upon their own land: and I will no more pluck them out of the land which I have given them; saith the Lord thy God.

Who is as the Lord our God, Who dwelleth on high, and looketh down on the low thing in heaven and in earth? Raised up the needy from the earth, and lifting up the poor out of the dunghill.

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to Thy suppliant household, that while they abstain from bodily food, they may likewise refrain from sin in their minds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God, Who for the ransoming from slavery of the Christians held captive by pagans wast pleased, through the most glorious mother of Thy Son to enrich Thy Church by a new order: grant, we beseech Thee, that she, whom we piously venerate as the founder of so great a work, may, through her merits and prayers, deliver us from all our sins and from the captivity of the devil. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days all the people were gathered together as one man, to the street which is before the water gate, and they spoke to Esdras the scribe, to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. Then Esdras the priest brought the law before the multitude of men and women, and all those that could understand, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read it plainly in the street that was before the water gate, from the morning until mid-day, before the men and women, and all those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book. And Esdras the scribe stood upon a step of wood, which he made to speak upon. And he opened the book before all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he had opened it, all the people stood. And Esdras blessed the Lord the great God, and all the people answered: Amen, Amen, lifting up their hands: and they bowed down, and adored God, with their faces to the ground. Now the Levites made silence among the people to hear the law; and the people stood in their place: and they read in the book of the law of God distinctly and plainly to be understood; and they understood when it was read. And Nehemias, and Esdras the priest and scribe, and the levites who interpreted to all the people said: This is a holy day to the Lord our God; do not mourn nor weep. And he said to them. Go eat fat meats and drink sweet wines, and send portions to them that have not prepared for themselves; because it is the holy day of the Lord; and be not sad, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: the people whom the Lord hath chosen for His inheritance. By the word of the Lord His heavens were established: and all the power of them by the spirit of His mouth.

At the time, one of the multitude answering said to Jesus: Master, I have brought my son to thee, having a dumb spirit. Who, wheresoever he taketh him, dasheth him, and he foameth, and gnasheth with the teeth, and pineth away; and I spoke to thy disciples to cast him out, and they could not. Who answering them, said: O incredulous generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him. And when he had seen him, immediately he spirit troubled him; and being thrown down upon the ground, he rolled about foaming. And he asked his father: How long time is it since this hath happened unto him? But he said: From his infancy: and oftentimes he cast him into the fire and into waters to destroy him. But if thou canst do any thing, help us, having compassion on us. And Jesus saith to him: If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And immediately the father of the boy crying out, with tears said: I do believe, Lord: help my unbelief. And when Jesus saw the multitude running together, he threatened the unclean spirit, saying to him: Deaf and dumb spirit, I command thee, go out of him; and enter not any more into him. And crying out, and greatly tearing him, he went out of him, and he became as dead, so that many said: He is dead. But Jesus taking him by the hand, lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples secretly asked him: Why could not we cast him out? And he said to them: This kind can go out by noing, but by prayer and fasting.

I will meditate on Thy commandments, which I will love exceedingly and lift up my hands to Thy commandments, which I have loved.

May this sacrifice, we beseech Thee, O Lord, cleanse our sins away, and sanctify the bodies and minds of them that serve Thee unto celebrating the sacrifice. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

By Thy gracious mercy, O Lord, and the intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, may this offering be of avail to us for welfare and peace now and for evermore. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Eat fat meats, and drink sweet wine, and send portions to them that have not prepared for themselves; because it is the holy day of the Lord; for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

As we receive Thy heavenly gift, O Lord, we humbly pray: that what of Thy bounty we dutifully hold, of Thy bounty too may we worthily keep. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Having received, O Lord, these helps to our salvation, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be ever protected by the patronage of blessed Mary ever Virgin, in whose honor we have made these offerings to 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.