

Today's Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul combines a melancholy strain of penitence with notes of rejoicing in honor of the Apostle of the Gentiles.

The Epistle describes vividly the incredible trial endured by St. Paul in his apostolate among the Gentiles.

The parable of the sower related in the Gospel, is aptly chosen by the Church for this feast of the Apostle Paul, who scattered the seed of the good tidings from Damascus and Arabia in the east even unto the Pillars of Hercules in the west.

Many are the evils that threaten our eternal salvation in the midst of the world; the good seed falls on the highway, but its growth is prevented in many ways. Each one of us should resolve at the foot of the altar to make use, as St. Paul would have us do, of every means to ensure our final salvation. What shall it profit us to gain the whole world, if by so doing we imperil our own soul?

INTROIT Psalms 43: 23-26

Exsúrge, quare obdórmis, Dómine? exsúrge, et ne repéllas in finem: quare fáciem tuam avértis, oblivísceris tribulatióne nostram? adhæsit in terra venter noster: exsúrge, Dómine, ádjuva nos, et líbera nos. (Ps 43: 2) Deus, áuribus nostris audívimus: patres nostri annuntiavérunt nobis. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Exsúrge, quare obdórmis, Dómine? exsúrge, et ne repéllas in finem: quare fáciem tuam avértis, oblivísceris tribulatióne nostram? adhæsit in terra venter noster: exsúrge, Dómine, ádjuva nos, et líbera nos.

COLLECT

Deus, qui cónspicis, quia ex nulla nostra actióne confídimus: concéde propítius; ut contra advérsa ómnia, Doctóris géntium protectióne muniámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE**2 Corinthians 11: 19-33; 12: 1-9**

Fratres: Libénter suffértis insipiéntes: cum sitis ipsi sapiéntes. Sustinétis enim si quis vos in servitútem rédigat, si quis dévorat, si quis áccipit, si quis extóllitur, si quis in fáciem vos cædit. Secúndum ignobilitátem dico, quasi nos infirmi fuérimus in hac parte. In quo quis audet (in insipiéntia dico) áudeo et ego. Hebræi sunt, et ego: Israëlitæ sunt, et ego: Semen Abrahæ sunt, et ego: Ministri Christi sunt (ut minus sapiens dico) plus ego: in labóribus plúrimis, in carcéribus abundántius, in plagis supra modum, in mórtibus fréquënter. A Judæis quínque quadragénas, una minus, accépi. Ter virgis cæsus sum, semel lapidátus sum, ter naufrágium feci, nocte et die in profúndo maris fui: in itinéribus sæpe, perículis flúminum, perículis latrónum, perículis ex géne, perículis ex géntibus, perículis in civitáte, perículis in solitúdi, perículis in mari, perículis in falsis frátribus: in labóre et ærúmna, in vigiliis multis, in fame et siti, in jejúniis multis, in frígore et nuditáte: præter illa quæ extrínsecus sunt, instántia mea quotidiána, sollicitúdo omniuno Ecclesiárum. Quis infirmátur, et ego non infirmor? Quis scandalizátur, et ego non uror? Si gloriári opórtet: quæ infirmitátis meæ sunt, gloriábor. Deus et Pater Dómini nostri Jesu Christi, qui est benedíctus in sæcula, scit quod non méntior. Damásci prædépósitus gentis Arétæ regis, custodiébat civitátem Damascenórum, ut me comprehénderet: et per fenéstram in sporta dimissus sum per murum, et sic effúgi manus ejus. Si gloriári opórtet (non expédit quidem), véniam autem ad visióne, et revelatióne Dómini. Scio hómíne in Christo ante annos quatuórdecim, sive in córpore nescio, sive extra corpus nescio, Deus scit, raptum hujúsmodi usque ad tértium cælum. Et scio hujúsmodi hómíne, sive in córpore, sive extra corpus nescio, Deus scit: quóniam raptus est in paradísus, et audívit arcána verba, quæ non licet hómíni loqui. Pro hujúsmodi gloriábor: pro me autem nihil gloriábor, nisi in infirmitátibus meis. Nam, et si volúero gloriári, non ero insipiens: nisi quænter ením dicam: parco autem, ne quis me exístimet supra id quod videt in me, aut áliquid audit ex me. Et ne magnitúdo revelatiónum extóllat me, datus est mihi stímulus carnis meæ, ángelus sátanae, qui me colaphízet. Propter quod ter Dóminum rogávi, ut discéderet a me: et dixit mihi: Súfficit tibi grátia mea: nam virtus in infirmitáte perficitur. Libénter igitur gloriábor in infirmitátibus meis, ut inhábitet in me virtus Christi.

GRADUAL Psalms 82: 19, 14

Sciánt gentes, quóniam nomen tibi Deus: tu solus Altíssimus super omnem terram, Deus meus, pone illos ut rotam, et sicut stípulam ante fáciem venti.

GOSPEL Luke 8: 4-15

In illo témpore: Cum turba plúrima convenírent, et de civitatibus properárent ad Jesum, dixit per similitúdinem: Exiit, qui séminat, semínare semen suum: et dum séminat, áliud cécidit secus viam, et conculcátum est, et volúeres cæli comedérunt illud. Et áliud cécidit supra petram: et natum áruit, quia non habébat humórem. Et áliud cécidit inter spinas, et simul exórtæ áliud cécidit suffocavérunt illud. Et áliud cécidit in terram bonam: et ortum fecit fructum céntuplum. Hæc dicens, clamábat: Qui habet aures audiéndi, audiat. Interrogábant autem eum discípuli eius, quæ datus est parabola. Quibus ipse dixit: Vobis datum est nosse mystérium regni Dei, céteris autem in parábolis: ut vidéntes non videant, et audientes non intélligant. Est autem hæc parabola: Semen est verbum Dei. Qui autem secus viam, hi sunt qui ádiunt: déinde venit diábolus, et tollit fructum de corde eórum, ne credéntes salvi fiant. Nam qui supra petram: qui cum audierint, cum gáudio suscipiunt verbum: et hi radices non habent: qui ad témpus credunt, et in témpore tentatiónis recédunt. Quod autem in spinas cécidit: hi sunt, qui audiérunt, et a sollicitudinibus et divítiis et voluptátibus vitæ eúntes, suffocántur, et non réferunt fructum. Quod autem in bonam terram: hi sunt, qui in corde bono et óptimo audiéntes verbum rétinent, et fructum áfferunt in patiéntia.

OFFERTORY Psalms 16: 5-7

PERFECT gressus meos in sánctis tuis, ut non moveántur vestigia mea: inclína aurem tuam, et exáudi verba mea: mirífica misericórdias tuas, qui salvos facis sperántes in te, Dómine.

SECRET

Oblátum tibi, Dómine, sacrificium, vivíficet nos semper et múniat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 42: 4

Introibo ad altáre Dei, ad Deum qui lætíficat juventútem meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Supplices te rogámus, omnípotens Deus: ut quos tuis réficis sacraméntis, tibi étiam plácitis móribus dignánter deservíre concédas. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Arise, why sleepest Thou, O Lord? arise, and cast us not off to the end. Why turnest Thou Thy face away, and forgettest our trouble? our belly hath cleaved to the earth: arise, O Lord, help us and deliver us. (Ps. 43: 2) We have heard, O God, with our ears: our fathers have declared to us. 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. Arise, why sleepest Thou, O Lord? arise, and cast us not off to the end. Why turnest Thou Thy face away, and forgettest our trouble? Our belly hath cleaved to the earth: arise, O Lord, help us and deliver us.

O God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: mercifully grant that by the protection of the Doctor of the Gentiles we may be defended against all adversities. 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, You gladly suffer the foolish: whereas yourselves are wise. For you suffer if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take from you, if a man be lifted up, if a man strike you on the face. I speak according to dishonor, as if we had been weak in the past. Wherein if any man dare (I speak foolishly), I dare also. They are Hebrews, so am I. They are Israelites, so am I. They are the seed of Abraham, so am I. They are the ministers of Christ (I speak as one less wise), I am more: in many more labors, in prisons more frequently, in stripes above measure, in deaths often. Of the Jews five times did I receive forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once I was stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I was in the depth of the sea: in journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils from my own nation, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils from false brethren: in labor and painfulness, in much watching, in cold and nakedness; besides those things which are without, my daily instance, the solicitude for all the Churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is scandalized, and I am not on fire? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things that concern my infirmity. The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed for ever, knoweth that I lie not. At Damascus the governor of the nation under Aretas, the king, guarded the city of the Damascenes to apprehend me: and through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and so escaped his hands. If I must glory (it is not expedient indeed) but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, whether in the body I know not, or out of the body, I know not, God knoweth, such a one caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man, whether in the body or out of the body, I know not, God knoweth: that he was caught up unto paradise, and he heard secret words which it is not granted to man to utter. For such a one I will glory: but for myself I will glory nothing but in my infirmities. For though I should have a mind to glory, I shall not be foolish: for I will say the truth: but I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth in me, or anything he heareth from me. And lest the greatness of the revelations should exalt me, there was given me a sting of my flesh, an angel of Satan, to buffet me. For which thing, thrice I besought the Lord that it might depart from me. And He said to me: my grace is sufficient for thee: for power is made perfect in infirmity. Gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Let the Gentiles know that God is Thy Name: Thou alone art the Most High over all the earth. O my God, make them like a wheel, and as stubble before the wind.

At that time, when a very great multitude was gathered together and hastened out of the cities unto Jesus, He spoke by a similitude: The sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And other some fell upon a rock: and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other some fell among thorns, and the thorns growing up with it choked it. And other some fell upon good ground: and being sprung up yielded fruit a hundredfold. Saying these things, He cried out: He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. His disciples asked Him what this parable might be. To whom He said: To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to the rest in parables: that seeing they may not see, and hearing may not understand. Now the parable is this. The seed is the word of God. And they by the wayside are they that hear: then the devil cometh and taketh the word out of their heart, lest believing they should be saved. Now they upon the rock are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no roots: for they believe for a while, and in time of temptation they fall away. And that which fell away among thorns are they who have heard and, going their way, are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and yield no fruit. But on the good ground are they who in a good and perfect heart, hearing the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit in patience.

Perfect Thou my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps be not moved: incline Thine ear, and hear my words: show forth Thy wonderful mercies, Thou who savest them that trust in Thee, O Lord.

May the Sacrifice offered to Thee, O Lord, ever quicken us and protect 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.

I will go in to the altar of God, to God who giveth joy to my youth.

We humbly beseech Thee, almighty God, to grant that they whom Thou dost refresh with Thy Sacraments, may worthily serve Thee by lives well pleasing 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.