



THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY

ASPÉRGES

(If a Sunday)

Aspérges me. Dómine, hyssópo, et mundábor: *Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed; Thou shalt wash me,*

Miserére mei, Deus, secúndum magnam and I shall become whiter than snow.

misericórdiam tuam. P. Glória Patri, et Filio, et Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy

Spirítui Sancto. S. Sicut erat in princípío, et great mercy. [Psalm 50] P. Glory be to the

nunc, et semper; et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Aspérges me. Dómine, hyssópo, et mundábor: *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever*

lavábis me, et super nivem dealbábor. shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Osténde nobis, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam. *P. Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.*

S. Et salutáre tuum da nobis. *S. And grant us Thy salvation.*

P. Dómine, exáudi oratiónem meam. *P. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

S. Et clamor meus ad te véniat. *S. And let my cry come unto Thee.*

P. Dóminus vobíscum. *P. The Lord be with you.*

S. Et cum spírítu tuo. *S. And with thy spirit.*

P. Orémus. Exáudi nos, Dómine sancte, Pater *P. Let us pray.*

omnípotens, ætérne Deus, et míttere dignéris Hear us, O holy Lord, almighty Father,

sanctum Angelum tuum de cælis, qui custódiat, everlasting God, and vouchsafe to send Thy

fóveat, prótegat, vísitet, atque deféndat omnes holy Angel from heaven, to guard, cherish,

habitántes in hoc habitáculo. Per Christum protect, visit and defend all that are assembled

Dóminum nostrum. in this place: Through Christ our Lord.

S. Amen *S. Amen*

INTROIT Is. 9. 6

Puer natus est nobis: et filius datus est nobis, A Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us,

cujus impérium super húmerum ejus: et whose government is upon His shoulders: and

vocábitur nomen ejus, magni consílii Ángelus. His Name shall be called the Angel of Great

Counsel. Ps. 97. 1 Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum: quia Counsel. Ps. 97. 1 Sing ye to the Lord a new

mirabília fecit. V. Glória Patri. Puer natus est canticle: because He hath done wonderful

nobis. things. V. Glory be to the Father. A Child is

born to us.

COLLECT

Deus, qui salutis aeternae, beatae Mariae virginitate foecunda, humano generi praemia praestitisti: tribue, quaesumus; ut ipsam pro nobis intercedere sentiamus, per quam meruimus auctorem vitae suscipere, Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum: Qui tecum.

O God, who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast bestowed upon mankind the rewards of everlasting salvation: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience her intercession for us, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of Life, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord: Who liveth.

EPISTLE *Titus 2. 11-15*

Carissime: Apparuit gratia Dei Salvatoris nostri omnibus hominibus, erudiens nos, ut abnegantes impietatem et saecularia desideria, sobrie et juste et pie vivamus in hoc saeculo, expectantes beatam spem, et adventum gloriae magni Dei et Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi: qui dedit semetipsum pro nobis, ut nos redimeret ab omni iniquitate, et mundaret sibi populum acceptabilem, sectatorem bonorum operum. Haec loquere et exhortare: in Christo Jesu Domino nostro.

Dearly beloved, The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men, instructing us, that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly and justly and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and might cleanse to Himself a people acceptable, a pursuer of good works. These things speak and exhort: in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

GRADUAL *Psalm 97. 3, 4, 2*

Viderunt omnes fines terrae salutare Dei nostri: jubilare Deo, omnis terra. V. Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum: ante conspectum gentium revelavit justitiam suam.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God: sing joyfully to God, all the earth. #. The Lord hath made known His salvation: He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles.

ALLELUIA

Alleluja, alleluja. V. Hebrews 1. 1, 2 Multifarie olim Deus loquens patribus in prophetis, novissime diebus istis locutus est nobis in Filio suo. Alleluja.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Hebrews 1. 1, 2 God, who in divers manners spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, last of all in these days hath spoken to us by His Son. Alleluia.

GOSPEL *St. Luke 2. 21*

In illo tempore: Postquam consummati sunt dies octo, ut circumcideretur puer: vocatum est nomen ejus Jesus, quod vocatum est ab Angelo priusquam in utero conciperetur.

At that time, after eight days were accomplished that the Child should be circumcised: His name was called Jesus, which was called by the Angel before He was conceived in the womb.

OFFERTORY *Psalm 88. 12, 15*

Tui sunt caeli, et tua est terra: orbem terrarum et plenitudinem ejus tu fundasti: justitia et judicium praeparatio sedis tuae.

Thine are the heavens, and Thine is the earth, the world and the fulness thereof Thou hast founded: justice and judgment are the preparation of Thy throne.

SECRET

Muneribus nostris, quaesumus, Domine, precibusque susceptis: et caelestibus nos munda mysteriis, et clementer exaudi. Per Dominum.

Receive our gifts and prayers, we beseech Thee, O Lord; cleanse us by these heavenly mysteries, and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord.

PREFACE *Of The Nativity*

Vere dignum et justum est, aequum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeterne Deus: Quia per

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, for through the

incarnáti Verbi mystérium, nova mentis nostræ *mystery of the Word made flesh, the new light of*
óculis lux tuæ claritátis infúlsit: ut dum *Thy glory hath shone upon the eyes of our mind,*
visibíliter Deum cognóscimus, per hunc in *so that while we acknowledge God in visible*
invisibílium amórem rapíamur. Et ídeo cum *form, we may through Him be drawn to the love*
Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et *of things invisible. And therefore with Angels and*
Dominatióibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis *Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and*
exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine *with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing*
fine dicéntes: *the hymn of Thy glory, ever more saying:*

PROPER COMMUNICANTES

Communicántes, et noctem sacratíssimam *Having communion in, and keeping this most holy*
celebrántes, qua beátæ Mariæ intemeráta *night, on which the spotless virginity of blessed*
virginitas huic mundo édidit Salvatórem: sed et *Mary brought forth a Savior to this world; and*
memóriam venerántes, in primis ejúsdem *also reverencing the memory first of the same*
gloriósæ semper Vírginis Mariæ, Genitrícis *glorious Mary, ever Virgin, Mother of the same*
ejúsdem Dei et Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: sed *our God and Lord Jesus Christ: as also...*
et...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Psalm 97. 3*

Vidérunt omnes fines terræ salutáre Dei nostri.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God.*

POSTCOMMUNION COLLECT

Hæc nos commúnio, Dómine, purget a crimine: *May this communion, O Lord, cleanse us from*
et intercedénte beáta Vírgine Dei Genitríce *guilt: and through the intercession of the*
Mariá, cæléstis remédii fáciat esse consórtes. *blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, make us*
Per eúndem Dóminum. *sharers of the heavenly remedy. Through the*
same.

TODAY'S REFLECTIONS

THE EPISTLE: *In what special manner has the grace and goodness of God been manifested to us?* In the incarnation and birth of Christ, His Son, whom, in His infinite love, He has made like unto us, our brother and our teacher, by whom we have become children of God, and co-heirs of His kingdom.

What does Christ by His incarnation desire to teach us especially? That we should put aside all unrighteousness, all infidelity and injustice, and endeavor to become like unto Him, who, except in sin, has become altogether like unto us. But especially that we repress the desires of lust, wealth, and honor, and not rest until we have rooted them from our hearts.

How do we live soberly, justly, and godly? We live soberly, when we fulfill all duties towards ourselves; justly, when we fulfill all duties towards our neighbor; and godly, when we fulfill all duties to God.

THE GOSPEL: *Why did Jesus submit to Circumcision?* That He might show His great love for us, which caused Him even at the very beginning of His life, to shed His blood to cleanse us thereby from all our sins. Furthermore to teach us obedience to the commandments of God and His Church, since He voluntarily subjected Himself to the Jewish law, although He was not in the least bound by it, which ordered that every male child should be circumcised on the eighth day after its birth (Lev. 12:3).

Why was He named Jesus? Because Jesus means Redeemer and Savior, and He had come to redeem and save the world (Mt. 1:21). This is the holiest, most venerable, and most powerful name

by which we can be saved.

What power has this name? The greatest power, for it repels all attacks of the evil Spirit, as Jesus Himself says (Mk. 16:17). And so great is the efficacy of this most holy name that even those who are not righteous, can by it expel devils (Mt. 7:22). It has power to cure physical pains and evils, as when used by the apostles (Acts. 3:3-7), and Christ promised that the faithful by using it could do the same (Mk. 16:17). St. Bernard calls the name of Jesus a "Medicine"; and St. Chrysostom says, "This name cures all ills; it gives succor in all the ailments of the soul, in temptations, in faintheartedness, in sorrow, and in all evil desires, etc." "Let him who cannot excite contrition in his heart for the sins he has committed, think of the loving, meek, and suffering Jesus, invoke His holy name with fervor and confidence, and he will feel his heart touched and made better," says St. Lawrence Justinian. It overcomes and dispels the temptations of the enemy: "When we fight against Satan in the name of Jesus," says the martyr St. Justin, "Jesus fights for us, in us, and with us, and the enemies must flee as soon as they hear the name of Jesus." It secures us help and blessings in all corporal and spiritual necessities, because nothing is impossible to him who asks in the name of Jesus, whatever tends to his salvation will be given him (Jn. 14:13). Therefore it is useful above all things, to invoke this holy name in all dangers of body and soul, in doubts, in temptations, especially in temptations against holy chastity, and still more so when one has fallen into sin, from which he desires to be delivered; for this name is like oil (Cant. 1:2) which cures, nourishes, and illumines.

How must this name be pronounced to experience its power? With lively faith, with steadfast, unshaken confidence, with deepest reverence and devotion, for in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth (Phil. 2:10). What wickedness, then, is theirs who habitually pronounce this name carelessly and irreverently, upon every occasion! Such a habit is certainly diabolical; for the damned and the devils constantly abuse God and His holy name.

Why does this name so seldom manifest its power in our days? Because Christian faith is daily becoming weaker, and confidence less, while perfect submission to the will of God is wanting. When faith grows stronger among people, and confidence greater, then will the power of this most sacred name manifest itself in more wonderful and consoling aspects.

PRAYER TO BE SAID ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

O God, Heavenly Father of Mercy, God of all Consolation! we thank Thee that from our birth to this day, Thou hast so well preserved us, and hast protected us in so many dangers; we beseech Thee, through the merits of Thy beloved Son, and by His sacred blood which He shed for us on this day in His circumcision, to forgive all the sins which, during the past year, we have committed against Thy commandments, by which we have aroused Thy indignation and wrath against ourselves. Preserve us in the coming year from all sins, and misfortunes of body and soul. Grant that from this day to the end of our lives, all our senses, thoughts, words, and works, which we here dedicate to Thee for all time, may be directed in accordance with Thy will, and that we may finally die in the true Catholic faith, and enjoy with Thee in Thy kingdom a joyful new year, that shall know no end. Amen.