



S. JOHANNI APOSTOLI

St. John the Apostle & Evangelist

INTROIT *Eccli 15:5*

In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum Ps 91:2 Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. V. Gloria Patri... *In médio Ecclésiæ...*

In the midst of the assembly the Lord opened his mouth; and filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding; He clothed him with a robe of glory. Ps 91:2 It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name, Most High. v. Glory be... In the midst...

COLLECT

Ecclésiám tuam, Dómine, benígnus illústra: ut, beáti Joánnis Apóstoli tui et Evangelistæ illumináta doctrínis, ad dona pervéniat sempitérna. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum: qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.

O Lord, graciously shed light upon Your Church, so that, enlightened by the teachings of blessed John, Your Apostle and Evangelist, she may gain Your everlasting rewards. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

R. Amen

Pro Octava Nativitatis

Concéde, quaesumus, omnípotens Deus: ut nos Unigénititui nova per carnem Nativitas líberet; quos sub peccáti jugo vetústa sérvitus tenet. Per eundem Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum. R. Amen.

For Octave of the Nativity

Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth, in the flesh, of Your only-begotten Son may deliver us whom the bondage of old keeps under the yoke of sin. Through the same Jesus Christ, thy Son, Our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. R. Amen.

EPISTLE *Eccli 15:1-6*

Lectio libri Sapiéntiæ. Qui timet Deum, fáciat bona: et qui cóntinens est justítiæ, apprehéndet illam, et obviábit illi quasi mater honorificáta. Cibábit illum pane vitæ et intelléctus, et aqua sapiéntiæ salutáris potábit illum: et firmábitur in illo, et non flecté³⁰ S.Joannis Apostoli et Evangelistæ tur: et continébit illum, et non confundétur: et exaltábit illum apud próximos suos, et in médio ecclésiæ apériet os ejus, et

Lesson from the book of Ecclesiasticus. He who fears God will do good; he who is practiced in the Law will come to wisdom. Like an honorable mother she will meet him, nourish him with the bread of life and understanding, and give him the water of learning to drink. She will be made strong in him, and he shall not be moved; she will hold him fast, and he shall not be put to shame. She will exalt him above his fellows; in the midst of the assembly she will

adimplébit illum spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus, et stola glóriæ véstiet illum. Jucunditátem et exsultatióem thesaurizábit super illum, et nómine ætérno hereditábit illum, Dóminus, Deus noster.

R. Deo gratias

GRADUALE *Joann 21:23; 21:19*

Exiit sermo inter fratres, quod discipulus ille non móritur: et non dixit Jesus: Non móritur, V. Sed: Sic eum volo manére, donec véniam: tu me séquere. Allelúja, allelúja. Joann 21:24 V. Hic est discipulus ille, qui testimónium pérhibet de his: et scimus, quia verum est testimónium ejus. Allelúja.

GOSPEL *Joann 21:19-24*

Sequéntia sancti Evangélii secundum Joannem. In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus Petro: Séquere me. Convérsus Petrus vidit illum discipulum, quem diligébat Jesus, sequéntem, qui et recúbuit in cena super pectus ejus, et dixit: Dómine, quis est qui tradet te ? Hunc ergo cum vidisset Petrus, dixit Jesu: Dómine, hic autem quid? Dicit ei Jesus: Sic eum volo manére, donec véniam, quid ad te? tu me séquere. Exiit ergo sermo iste inter fratres, quia discipulus ille non móritur. Et non dixit ei Jesus: Non móritur; sed: Sic eum volo manére, donec véniam: quid ad te? Hic est discipulus ille, qui testimónium pérhibet de his, et scripsit hæc: et scimus, quia verum est testimónium ejus.

R. Laus tibi, Christe!

CREDO in Unum Deum, Patrem omnipoténtem, factórem coeli et terræ, visibílium ómnium et in visibílium.

Et in unum Dóminum Jesum Christum, Fílium Dei unigénitum. Et ex Patre natum ante ómnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lúmine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Génitum, non factum, consubstantiálem Patri: per quem ómnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos hómines et propter nostram salútem descéndit de coelis. Et incarnátus est de Spírítu Sancto ex María Vírgine: Et homo factus est. Crucifixus étiam pro nobis: sub Póntio Piláto passus, et sepúltus est. Et resurréxit tértia die, secúndum Scriptúras. Et ascéndit in coelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et íterum ventúrus est cum glória judicáre vivos et mórtuos: cujus regni non erit finis.

Et in Spírítum Sanctum, Dóminum et

open his mouth, and will fill him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and will clothe him with a robe of glory. The Lord our God will heap upon him a treasure of joy and gladness, and will cause him to inherit an everlasting name. R. Thanks be to God.

This saying therefore went abroad among the brethren, that that disciple was not to die. But Jesus had not said, He is not to die. V. But rather, So I wish him to remain until I come. Follow Me. Alleluia, alleluia. John 21:24 This is that disciple who bears witness concerning these things: and we know that his witness is true. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to Peter, Follow Me. Turning around, Peter saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who, at the supper, had leaned back upon His breast and said, Lord, who is it that will betray You? Peter therefore, seeing him, said to Jesus, Lord, and what of this man? Jesus said to him, If I wish him to remain until I come, what is it to you? You, follow Me. This saying therefore went abroad among the brethren, that that disciple was not to die. But Jesus had not said to him, He is not to die; but rather, If I wish him to remain until I come, what is it to you? This is the disciple who bears witness concerning these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his witness is true.

R. Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. And born of the Father, before all ages. God of God: Light of Light: true God of true God. Begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven. And became incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end. And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of

vivificántem: qui ex Patre procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adorátur et conglorificátur: qui locútus est per Prophétas. Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam Ecclésiám. Confiteor unum baptísma in remissionem peccatórum. Et exspécto resurrectionem mortuórum. Et vitam ventúri saeculi. Amen.

Life, proceeding from the Father. Who together, with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified: Who spoke by the prophets. And in one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Psalm 91:13*

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, mulliplicábitur.

The just man shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.

SECRET

Súscipe, Dómine, múnera, quæ in ejus tibi sollemnitate deférimus, cujus nos confidimus patrocínio libcrári. Per Dominum...

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring You on the feast of him upon whose patronage we trust for our salvation. Through our Lord...

Pro Octava Nativitatis

Oblata, Dómine, múnera, nova Unigéniti tui Nativitate sanctífica: nosque a peccatórum nostrorum máculis emúnda. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum...

Make holy the sacrificial gifts we offer, O Lord, and by the new birth of Your only-begotten Son cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through our Lord...

PREFACE *de Nativitate Domini*

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Quia per incarnáti Verbi mystérium nova mentis nostræ óculis lux tuæ claritátis infúlsit: ut, dum visibíliter Deum cognóscimus, per hunc in invisibílium amorem rapiámur. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus cumque omni milítia coeléstis exércitus hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes: Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus...

It it 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 Mystery of the Word made flesh, the new light of Thy glory hath shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that while we acknowledge God in visible form, we may through Him be drawn to the love of things invisible. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Throne and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying: Holy, holy, holy...

COMMUNION *Joann 21:23*

Exiit sermo inter fratres, quod discípus ille non móritur: et non dixit Jesus: Non móritur; sed: Sic eum volo manére, donec véniam.

A saying went abroad among the brethren, that that disciple was not to die. But Jesus had not said, He is not to die; but rather, So I wish him to remain until I come.

POSTCOMMUNION COLLECT

Refécti cibo potúque coelésti, Deus noster, te súpplices deprecámur: ut, in cujus hæc commemoratióne percépimus, ejus muniámur et précibus. Per Dominum...

Refreshed with heavenly food and drink, we humbly beseech You our God, that we may be protected by the prayers of him in whose memory we have received this sacrament. Through the Lord...

Pro Octava Nativitatis

Præsta, quaesumus, omnípotens Deus: ut natus hodie Salvátor mundi, sicut divínæ nobis generatiónis est auctor; ita et immortalitátis sit ipse largítor: Qui tecum vivit...

Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the Savior of the world, born this day, Who is the author of our birth in godliness, may bestow on us immortal life. Who livest...

TODAY'S REFLECTIONS

Saint John, brother of Saint James the Greater, the Apostle of Spain, is the beloved disciple. He was privileged, with his brother and Saint Peter, to behold Our Lord raise up a dead child to life, then saw Him transfigured on the mountaintop; he alone reposed his head on His breast at the Last Supper. After the crucifixion it is he who, with Saint Peter, hastened to the empty tomb on the morning of the Resurrection. Standing beside Mary at the Cross, he had heard his Master confide that Blessed Mother to him to be henceforth his Mother also. He took his precious treasure for refuge to Ephesus when the persecution of the Jerusalem Christians became too intense; and from there he went out to evangelize Asia Minor, of which he became the first Archbishop. He was later exiled to the Island of Patmos, where he wrote the Apocalypse, but afterwards returned to Ephesus.



Compared with an eagle by his flights of elevated contemplation, Saint John is the supreme Doctor of the Divinity of Jesus of Nazareth. Endowed with an astounding memory, he was able even in his later years, to reproduce the discourses of Christ in such a way as to make the reader experience their power and impact on their audiences as if present to hear them. He is the author of five books of the New Testament, his Gospel, three Epistles, and the last canonical prophecy, the Apocalypse or Revelation of Saint John — all of which were composed after the ruin of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

In his extreme old age he continued to visit the churches of Asia, and Saint Jerome relates that when age and weakness grew upon him so that he was no longer able to preach to the people, he would be carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, with great difficulty; and every time said to his flock only these words: “My dear children, love one another.”

Saint John died in peace at Ephesus in the third year of Trajan, that is, the hundredth of the Christian era, or the sixty-sixth from the crucifixion of Christ, Saint John then being about ninety-four years old, according to Saint Epiphanius.

The Feast of St. John is the only feast of an apostle now remaining in the Christmas cycle. The station is at St. Mary Major, dedicated to the Savior; this basilica seemed the most suitable place for the celebration of the Christmas station in honor of St. John to whom the Blessed Virgin had been entrusted, both on account of the Savior’s crib there preserved, and of the mosaics of Pope Sixtus III commemorating the Council of Ephesus, held near the tomb of the Evangelist. The Gradual is drawn from that passage of St. John’s Gospel in which reference is made to the popular belief current in the first generation of Christians in Asia that the beloved disciple should not die before the parousia or last coming of Christ. The advanced age of the Apostle, on the other hand, seemed to lend credit to this opinion. So St. John, in the very last chapter of his Gospel, desired -as a sort of final postscript- to rectify this erroneous interpretation of the Savior’s words. “So I will have him to remain till I come, what is it to thee?” The words were uttered by Our Lord merely as an hypothesis. “So (if) I will”; but in the several oral versions of the episode the conditional and hypothetical particle “If” was easily passed over; hence St. John felt the necessity of explaining the misunderstanding and setting the matter right.