

JANUARY 1, FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION

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(Station at St. Mary in Trastevere)

The Roman Calendars originally made no mention of the Circumcision, which came in through the influence of the Gallican Liturgies. Rome preferred to solemnize the eighth day after the Nativity of Our Lord. The Mass and Office for today's feast show a mixed character. At first it was merely a question of the Octave of Our Lord; then, in connection with the Basilica of Our Lady, where the station was held, a special commemoration of the virginal motherhood of Mary Most Holy was inserted, the Circumcision and Presentation in the Temple being afterwards added, although this last, doubtless through Byzantine influence, was afterwards expunged from the office of January 1, so that it should be celebrated on February 2, 40 days from the birth of the infant, in accord with Jewish practice.

The Latin of Postcommunion, terse and forcible, yet perfectly balanced and rhythmical, implores through the prayers of Mary our purification from sin and our attainment of celestial bliss. Jesus in the heaven, in the essential brightness of His glory, is seated at the right hand of the Father, but here below his more fitting throne of mercy and grace is in the bosom of the Virgin who holds Him a little babe in her arms.

INTROIT **Isaias 9: 6**

Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis: cuius impénum super húmerum ejus: et vocábitur nomen ejus magni consílii Ángelus. (Ps. 97: 1)

Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum: quia mirabilia fecit. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis: cujus impénum super húmerum eius: et vocábitur nomen ejus magni consílii Ángelus.

COLLECT

Deus, qui salútis æternæ, beatæ Mariæ virginitate fecúnda, humáno géneri præmia præstitisti: tribue, quaesumus; ut ipsam pro nobis intercédere sentiámus, per quam merúimus auctórem vitæ suscipere, Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE **Titus 2: 11-15**

Caríssime: Appáruit grátia Dei Salvatóris nostri ómnibus homínibus, erúdiens nos, ut, abnegántes impietátem et sæculária desidéria, sóbrie et juste et pie vivámus in hoc sæculo, exspectántes beátam spem et advéntum glóriæ magni Dei et Salvatóris nostri Jesu Christi: qui dedit semetípsum pro nobis: ut nos redímeret ab omni iniquitate, et mundáret sibi pópulum acceptábilem, sectatórem bonórum óperum. Hæc lóquere et exhortáre: in Christo Jesu, Dómino nostro.

GRADUAL **Psalms 97: 2, 4, 2**

Viderunt omnes fines terræ salutare Dei nostri: jubiláte Deo, omnis terra. V. Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum: ante conspéctum géntium revelávit justítiam suam.

GREATER ALLELUIA **Hebrews 1: 1-2**

Allelúja, allelúja. Multifárie olim Deus loquens pátribus in Prophétis, novíssime diébus istis locútus est nobis in Fílio. Allelúja.

GOSPEL **Luke 2: 21**

In illo témpore: Postquam consummáti sunt dies octo, ut circumciderétur Puer: vocátum est nomen ejus Jesus, quod vocátum est ab Ángelo, priúsqvam in útero conciperétur.

OFFERTORY **Psalms 88: 12, 15**

Tui sunt cæli et tua est terra: orbem terrárum et plenitúdinem ejus tu fundásti: justítia et júdicium præparátió sedis tuæ.

SECRET

Munéribus nostris, quæsumus, Dómine, precibúsqve suscéptis: et cæléstibus nos munda mystériis, et cleménter exáudi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus. Quia per incarnáti Verbi mystérium, nova mentis nostræ óculis lux tuæ claritátis infúlsit: ut dum visibíliter Deum cognóscimus, per hunc in invisibílium amórem rapiámur. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dóminatiónibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNICANTES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Communicántes, et diem sacratíssimum celebrántes, quo beatæ Mariæ intemeráta virginitas huic mundo édidit Salvatórem: sed et memóriam venerántes, in primis ejúsdem gloriósæ semper Vírginis Mariæ, Genetrícis eiúsdem Dei et Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: sed et beati Joséphi, ejusdem Virginitis Sponsi, et beatórum Apostolórum ac Mátyrum tuórum, Petri et Pauli, Andréæ, Jacóbi, Joánnis, Thomæ, Jacóbi, Philíppi, Bartholomæi, Matthæi, Simónis et Thaddæi: Lini, Cleti, Cleméntis, Xysti, Cornélii, Cypriáni, Lauréntii, Chrysógoni, Joánnis et Pauli, Cosmæ et Damiáni: et ómnium Sanctórum tuórum; quorum méritis precibúsqve concédas, ut in ómnibus protectiónis tuæ muniámur auxílio. Per eúndem Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

COMMUNION **Psalms 97: 3**

Viderunt omnes fines terræ salutáre Dei nostri.

POSTCOMMUNION

Hæc nos communio, Dómine, purget a crimine: et, intercedénte beáta Virgine Dei Genetríce Mariá, cæléstis remédii fáciat esse consórtes. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

For a Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. (Ps. 97: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle: because He hath done wonderful things. 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. For a Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor.

O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary has bestowed upon the human race the rewards of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

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.

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

Alleluia, alleluia. God, Who, at sundry times and 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.

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.

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.

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

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 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 Thrones and Dóminations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Communicating, and keeping this most holy day, on which the spotless virginity of blessed Mary brought forth a Savior to this world; and also reverencing the memory first of the same glorious Mary, ever Virgin, Mother of the same our God and Lord Jesus Christ: as also of the blessed Apostles and Martyrs Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon, and Thaddeus; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Xystus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian, and of all Thy Saints, through whose merits and prayers, grant that we may in all things be defended by the help of Thy protection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

May this communion, O Lord, cleanse us from guilt: and through the intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, make us sharers of the heavenly remedy. 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.