

NOVEMBER 22, ST. CECILIA, VIRGIN MARTYR

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Born of an illustrious family, Cecilia as a child consecrated her virginity to God. Forced to marry a young pagan, Valerian, she said to him: "I am placed under the guardianship of an angel who protects my Virginity; therefore do not attempt anything which may bring down on thee God's anger." Valerian asked to see the angel, saying that if he should see him he should believe in Jesus Christ. Cecilia told him that he must first be baptized and sent him to Pope Urban, who baptized him. Valerian then saw near Cecilia a brilliant angel. The brother of Valerian had a similar vision when, having been instructed by Cecilia, he too was baptized. Valerian and Tiburtius his brother were both martyred a short time later. Cecilia was then arrested and put to death about the year 230.

In 1599 her body was discovered in the catacombs by Cardinal Sfondrati with the head lying partly severed, just as at the time of her death. Her body now lies in the Church in Trastevere where the nuns of the Order of St. Benedict are its guardians. Cecilia is the patroness of musicians, because when musical instruments sounded she sang to God in her heart.

INTROIT Psalms 118: 46, 47

Loquébar de testimóniis tuis in conspéctu regum, et non confundébar: et meditábar in mandátis tuis, quæ diléxi nimis. (Ps. 118: 1) Beáti immaculáti in via: qui ábulant in lege Dómini. Glória Patri et Filio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Loquébar de testimóniis tuis in conspéctu regum, et non confundébar: et meditábar in mandátis tuis, quæ diléxi nimis.

COLLECT

Deus, qui nos ánnua beátæ Cæciliæ Vírginis et Mártiris tuæ solemnitate lætíficas: da, ut, quam venerámur officio, étiam piæ conversatiónis sequámur exémplo. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 51: 13-17

Dómine, Deus meus, exaltásti super terram habitatiónem meam, et pro morte defluénte deprecáta sum. Invocávi Dóminum, Patrem Dómini mei, ut non derelinquat me in die tribulatiónis meæ, et in témpore superbórum sine adjutório. Laudábo nomen tuum assidue, et collaudábo illud in confessiône, et exaudita est orátio mea. Et liberásti me de perditiónē, et eripuísti me de témpore iníquo. Proptérea confitébor et laudem dicam tibi, Dómine, Deus noster.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 11-12

Audi, fíliá, et vide, et inclína aurem tuam: quia concupívit Rex spéciem tuam. (Ps. 44: 5) Spécie tua et pulchritúdine tua inténde, prospere procéde et regna.

LESSER ALLELUIA Matthew 25: 4, 6

Allelúja, allelúja. Quinque prudéntes vírgines accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lampádibus: média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce, sponsus venit: exíte óbviám Christo Dómino. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis parábolum hanc: Simile erit regnum cælórum decem virgínibus: quæ, accipiéntes lámpades suas, exiérunt óbviám sponso et sponsæ. Quinque autem ex eis erant fátuæ, et quinque prudéntes: sed quinque fátuæ, accéptis lampádibus, non sumpsérunt óleum secum: prudéntes vero accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lampádibus. Horam autem faciénte sponso, dormitavérunt omnes et dormiérunt. Média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce, sponsus venit, exíte óbviám ei. Tunc surrexérunt omnes vírgines illæ, et ornáverunt lámpades suas. Fátuæ autem sapiéntibus dixérunt: Date nobis de óleo vestro: quia lámpades nostræ exstinguúntur. Respondérunt prudéntes, dicéntes: Ne forte non sufficiat nobis et vobis, ite pórtius ad vendéntes, et émite vobis. Dum autem irent émere, venit sponso: et quæ parátæ erant, intravérunt cum eo ad núptias, et clausa est iánua. Novíssime vero véniunt et réliquæ vírgines, dicéntes: Dómine, Dómine, áperi nobis. At ille respóndens, ait: Amen, dico vobis, nescio vos. Vigiláte ítaque, quia nescítis diem neque horam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 15, 16

Afferéntur Regi Vírgines post eam: próximæ eius afferéntur tibi in lætítia et exultatióne: adducántur in templum Regi Dómino.

SECRET

Hæc hóstia, Dómine, placatiónis et laudis, quæsumus: ut, intercedénte beáta Cæcília Vírgine et Mártire tua, nos propitiatióne tua dignos semper efficiat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 118: 78, 80

Confundántur supérbi, quia injúste iniquitatem fecérunt in me: ego autem in mandátis tuis exercébor, in tuis justificatióibus, ut non confúndar.

POSTCOMMUNION

Satiásti, Dómine, familiam tuam munéribus sacris: ejus, quæsumus, semper interventióne nos réfove, cujus solémnia celebrámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not ashamed: I meditated also on Thy commandments, which I loved. (Ps. 118: 1) Blessed are the undefiled in the way: who walk in the law of the Lord. 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. I spoke of Thy testimonies before kings, and I was not ashamed: I meditated also on Thy commandments, which I loved.

O God, Who dost gladden us with the annual feast of blessed Cecilia, Thy virgin and martyr, grant that, as we venerate her in our liturgy, we may also follow her example in godly living. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O Lord my God, Thou hast exalted my dwelling place upon the earth, and I have prayed for death to pass away. I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that He would not leave me in the day of my trouble, and in the time of the proud without help. I will praise Thy Name continually, and will praise it with thanksgiving, and my prayer was heard. And Thou hast saved me from destruction, and hast delivered me from the evil time. Therefore I will give thanks and praise to Thee, O Lord our God.

Harken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear; for the King hath greatly desired thy beauty. (Ps. 44: 5) With thy comeliness and thy beauty, set out, proceed prosperously, and reign.

Alleluia, alleluia. The five wise Virgins took oil in their vessels with the lamps: and at midnight there was a cry made: Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: Ten Kingdom of Heaven shall be like to ten virgins, who taking their lamps went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride. And five of them were foolish, and five wise. But the five foolish, having taken their lamps, did not take oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with the lamps. And the bridegroom tarrying, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made: Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise: Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. The wise answered, saying: Lest perhaps there be not enough for us and for you, go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. Now whilst they went to buy, the bridegroom came: and they that were ready, went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. But at last come also the other virgins, saying: Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answering said: Amen I say to you, I know you not. Watch ye therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour.

After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to Thee with gladness and rejoicing: they shall be brought into the temple of the King, the Lord.

May this sacrifice of atonement and praise, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the intercession of blessed Cecilia, Thy virgin and martyr, ever make us worthy of Thy forgiveness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Let the proud be ashamed, because they have done unjustly towards me: but I will be employed in Thy commandments, in Thy justifications, that I may not be confounded.

O Lord, Thou hast regaled Thy household with sacred gifts; ever comfort us, we pray, with her intercession whose festival we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.