DECEMBER 7, ST. AMBROSE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ambrose, a doctor or teacher of the Church, was Archbishop of Milan from A.D. 374 to his death in 397. By his steadfastness he deserved well of God's people. Gentleness, meekness, humility, and obedience made him yield to every one in indifferent matters, but in those of duty he was inflexible. His writings have contributed many hymns and lections to the Roman Breviary. St. Ambrose died April 1, 397; but the first of April falling as a rule in Lent, the seventh of December, the anniversary of his consecration as bishop, was assigned for his festival.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5	
In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spíritu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spíritu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum.	In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord 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 praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. 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. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.
COLLECT	
Deus, qui pópulo tuo ætérnæ salútis beátum Ambrósium minístrum tribuísti: præsta, quǽsumus; ut, quem Doctórem vitæ habúimus in terris, intercessórem habére mereámur in cælis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	O God, who didst give blessed Ambrose as a minister of eternal salvation to Thy people: grant, we beseech Thee, that we, who have had him for our teacher on earth, may deserve to have him for our advocate in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Commemoration of Feria	
Excíta, quǽsumus, Dómine, poténtiam tuam, et veni: ut ab imminéntibus peccatórum nostrórum perículis, te mereámur protegénte éripi, te liberánte salvári. Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4: 1-8	
Caríssime: Testíficor coram Deo, et Jesu Christo, qui judicatúrus est vivos et mórtuos, per advéntum ipsíus, et regnum ejus: prǽdica verbum, insta opportúne, importúne: árgue, óbsecra, íncrepa in omni patiéntia, et doctrína. Erit enim tempus, cum sanam doctrínam non sustinébunt, sed ad sua desidéria coacervábunt sibi magístros, pruriéntes áuribus, et a veritáte quidem audítum avértent, ad fábulas autem converténtur. Tu vero vígila, in ómnibus labóra, opus fac Evangelístæ, ministérium tuum imple. Sóbrius esto. Ego enim jam delíbor, et tempus resolutiónis meæ instat. Bonum certámen certávi, cursum consummávi, fidem servávi. In réliquo repósita est mihi coróna justítiæ, quam reddet mihi Dóminus in illa die, justus judex: non solum autem mihi, sed et iis, qui díligunt advéntum ejus.	Dearly beloved, I charge thee, before God and Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead, by His coming and His kingdom: preach the word: be instant in season, out of season: reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine. For there shall be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires they will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and will indeed turn away their hearing from the truth, but will be turned unto fables. But be thou vigilant, labor in all things, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry. Be sober. For I am even now ready to be sacrificed, and the time of my dissolution is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. As to the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just Judge, will render to me in that day: and not only to me, but to them also that love his coming.
GRADUAL Ecclesiasticus 44: 16, 20	
Ecce sacérdos magnus, qui in diébus suis plácuìt Deo. Non est invéntus similis illi, qui conserváret legem Excélsi.	Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God. There was not any found like to him, who kept the law of the Most High.
LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 109: 4	
Allelúja, allelúja. Jurávit Dóminus, et non pœnitébit eum. Tu es sacérdos in ætérnum, secúndum órdinem Melchísedech. Allelúja.	Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent. Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech. Alleluia.
GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19	
In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discípulis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad níhilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest cívitas abscóndi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut lúceat ómnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic lúceat lux vestra coram homínibus, ut vídeant ópera vestra bona, et gloríficent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre, quóniam veni sólvere legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvere, sed adimplére. Amen quippe dico vobis, donec tránseat cælum et terra, ióta unum aut unus apex non præteríbit a lege, donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecérit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.	At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men. You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled. He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments, and shall so teach men, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he that shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25	
Véritas mea, et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.	My truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.
SECRET	
Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, múnera tuæ majestáti obláta, per intercessiónem beáti Ambrósii Confessóris tui atque Pontíficis, ad perpétuam nobis fac proveníre salútem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Almighty, everlasting God, do Thou, by the intercession of blessed Ambrose Thy Confessor and Bishop, cause the gifts that are offered to Thy majesty, to benefit us unto everlasting salvation Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Commemoration of Feria	
Hæc sacra nos, Dómine, poténti virtúte mundátos, ad suum fáciant purióres veníre princípium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	May these holy mysteries, O Lord, cleanse us by their powerful virtue and make us to come with greater purity to Him Who is their source. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
COMMUNION Psalms 88: 36-38	
Semel jurávi in sancto meo: semen ejus in ætérnum manébit, et sedes ejus sicut sol in conspéctu meo, et sicut luna perfécta in ætérnum, et testis in cælo fìdélis.	Once have I sworn by My holiness: his seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me, and as the moon perfect forever; and a faithful witness in heaven.
POSTCOMMUNION	
Sacraménta salútis nostræ suscipiéntes, concéde, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut beáti Ambrósii Confessóris tui atque Pontíficis, nos ubíque orátio ádjuvet; in cujus veneratióne hæc tuæ obtúlimus majestáti. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Grant us, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, as we receive the sacrament of our salvation, that the prayer of blessed Ambrose, Thy confessor and bishop, in veneration of whom we have offered this sacrifice to Thy majesty, may everywhere assist 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.
Commemoration of Feria	
Suscipiámus, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam in médio templi tui: ut reparatiónis nostræ ventúra solémnia cóngruis honóribus præcedámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	May we receive, O Lord, Thy mercy in the midst of Thy temple, that we may prepare with due honor for the approaching feast of our redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.