

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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St. Peter's is the ancient liturgical cathedral of the Roman Pontiffs, who repair there to officiate on all the great festivals, but the habitual seat, the normal residence of the Popes, is the Lateran, and for this reason the *Basilica Salvatoris* (Basilica of the Savior - St. John Lateran) can claim the title of Mother and Head of all the churches of the city and of the world.

In the Mass for this Sunday great prominence is given to Psalm 90, that psalm which was quoted by Satan when tempting Our Lord. The faithful should contemplate with special devotion the mystery of Christ tempted in the desert, for there is no other which shows more clearly how the divine Providence makes even the wiles of the devil serve to our sanctification.

Although the faithful have already been fasting for four days, it is only to-day that the Liturgy celebrates the beginning of Lent, for until this Sunday nothing has been changed either in the divine Office or in the Mass. The proper Preface and other prayers are now used and the Lenten forms are followed til the divine Office.

INTROIT Psalm 90: 15, 16

Invocábit me, et ego exáudiam eum: erípiam eum, et glorificábo eum: longitúdine diérum adimplébo eum. (Ps 90:1) Qui hábitat in adjutório Altíssimi, in protectióne Dei cæli commorábitur. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Invocábit me, et ego exáudiam eum: erípiam eum, et glorificábo eum: longitúdine diérum adimplébo eum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam ánnua quadragesimáli observatióne purificas: præsta familiæ tuæ; ut, quod a te obtinére abstinéndo nítitur, hoc bonis opéribus exsequátur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Fratres: Exhortámur vos, ne in vácuum grátiam Dei recipiátis. Ait enim: Témpore accépto exaudívi te, et in die salutis adjúvi te. Ecce nunc tempus acceptábile, ecce nunc dies salutis. Némini dantes ullam offensióne, ut non vituperétur ministérium nostrum: sed in ómnibus exhibeámus nosmetípsos sicut Dei minístros, in multa patiéntia, in tribulatióne, in necessitatibus, in angústiis, in plagis, in carcéribus, in seditiõibus, in labóribus, in vigíliis, in jejúniis, in castitáte, in sciéntia, in longanimitáte, in suavitate, in Spíritu Sancto, in caritate non ficta, in verbo veritátis, in virtúte Dei, per arma justitiæ a dextris et a sinístris: per glóriam et ignobilitátem: per infámiam et bonam famam: ut seductóres, et veráces: sicut qui ignóti, et cógniti: quasi moriéntes, et ecce vívimus: ut castigáti, et non mortificáti: quasi tristes, semper autem gaudéntes: sicut egéntes, multos autem locupletántes: tamquam nihil habéntes et ómnia possidéntes.

GRADUAL Psalms 90: 11, 12

Ángelis suis Deus mandávit de te, ut custódiánt te in ómnibus viis tuis. In mánibus portábunt te, ne umquam offéndas ad lápidem pedem tuum.

TRACT Psalms 90: 1-7, 11-16

Qui hábitat in adjutório Altíssimi, in protectióne Dei cæli commorábitur. Dicit Dómino: Suscéptor meus es tu et refúgium meum: Deus meus, sperábo in eum. Quóniam ipse liberávit me de láqueo venántium, et a verbo áspero. Scápolis suis obumbrábit tibi, et sub pennis ejus sperábis. Scuto circúmdabit te veritas ejus: non timébis a timóre noctúrno. A sagítta volánte per diem, a negótio perambulánte in ténebris, a ruína et dæmónio meridiáno. Cadent a látere tuo mille, et decem mília a dextris tuis: tibi autem non appropinquábit. Quóniam Angelis suis mandávit de te, ut custódiánt te in ómnibus viis tuis. In mánibus portábunt te, ne umquam offéndas ad lápidem pedem tuum, Super áspidem et basilíscum ambulábis, et conculcábis leónem et dracónem. Quóniam in me sperávit, liberábo eum: prótegam eum, quóniam cognóvit nomen meum, Invocábit me, et ego exáudiam eum: cum ipso sum in tribulatióne, Eripiam eum et glorificábo eum: longitúdine diérum adimplébo eum, et osténdam illi salutáre meum.

GOSPEL Matthew 4: 1-11

In illo témpore: Ductus est Jesus in desértum a Spíritu, ut tentarétur a diabolo. Et cum jejunáset quadraginta diébus et quadraginta nóctibus, póstea esúriit. Et accédens tentátor, dixit ei: Si Fílius Dei es, dic ut lápidem isti panes fiant. Qui respóndens, dixit: Scriptum est: Non in solo pane vivit homo, sed in omni verbo, quod procedit de ore Dei. Tunc assúmpsit eum diábolus in sanctam civitátem, et stáruit eum super pinnáculum templi, et dixit ei: Si Fílius Dei es, mitte te deórsum. Scriptum est enim: Quia Angelis suis mandávit de te, et in mánibus tollent te, ne forte offéndas ad lápidem pedem tuum. Ait illi Jesus: Rursum scriptum est: Non tentábis Dóminum Deum tuum. Iterum assúmpsit eum diábolus in ómnia excélsum valde: et osténdit ei ómnia regna mundi, et glóriam eórum, et dixit ei: Hæc ómnia tibi dabo, si cadens adoráveris me. Tunc dicit ei Jesus: Vade, Sátana; scriptum est enim: Dóminum Deum tuum, adorábis, et illi soli sérvies. Tunc relíquit eum diábolus: et ecce Angeli accessérunt et ministrábant ei.

OFFERTORY Psalms 90: 4, 5

Scápolis suis obumbrábit tibi Dóminus, et sub pennis ejus sperábis: scuto circúmdabit te veritas ejus.

SECRET

Sacrificium quadragesimális iníti solémniter immolámus, te, Dómine, deprecántes: ut, cum epulárum restrictiõne carnálium, a nóxiis quoque voluptátibus temperémus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cóprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largiris et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátém tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant inímatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessiõne dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalm 90: 4, 5

Scápolis suis obumbrábit tibi Dóminus, et sub pennis ejus sperábis: scuto circúmdabit te veritas ejus.

POSTCOMMUNION

Tui nos, Dómine, sacraménti libátio sancta restáuret: et a vetustáte purgátos, in mystérii salutáris fáciat transíre consórtium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

He shall cry to me, and I will hear him: I will deliver him, and I will glorify him: I will fill him with length of days. (Psalm 90: 1) He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of Heaven. 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. He shall cry to me, and I will hear him: I will deliver him, and I will glorify him: I will fill him with length of days.

O God, who dost purify Thy Church by the yearly observance of forty days; grant to Thy household that what we strive to obtain from Thee by self denial, we may secure by good works. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: We exhort you that you receive not the grace of God in vain. For He saith: In an accepted time have I heard thee, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee. Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation. Giving no offense to any man, that our ministry be not blamed: but in all things let us exhibit ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in tribulation, in necessities, in distress, in stripes, in prisons, in seditions, in labors, in watchings, in fastings, in chastity, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in sweetness, in the Holy Spirit, in charity unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God: by the armor of justice on the right hand and on the left: by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers and yet true, as unknown and yet known: as dying, and behold we live: as chastised and not killed: as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing: as needy, yet enriching many: as having nothing and possessing all things.

God hath given His angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways. In their hands they shall bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

He that dwelleth in the aid of the most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven. He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge: my God, in Him will I trust. For He hath delivered me from the snare of the hunters, and from the sharp word. He will overshadow thee with His shoulders, and under His wings thou shalt trust. His truth shall compass thee with a shield: thou shalt not be afraid of the terror of the night. Of the arrow that flieth in the day, of the business that walketh about in the dark, of invasion or of the noonday devil. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand: but it shall not come nigh thee. . For He hath given His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. In their hands they shall bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt walk upon the asp and the basilisk, and thou shalt trample under foot the lion and the dragon. Because he hoped in Me I will deliver him: I will protect him, because he hath known My name. He shall cry to Me, and I will hear him: I am with him in tribulation. I will deliver him, and I will glorify him: I will fill him with length of days, and I will show him My salvation.

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards He was hungry. And the tempter coming said to him: If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.' Who answered and said: 'It is written: Not in bread alone doth man live, but in every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. Then the devil took Him up into the holy city and set Him upon the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him: If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down. For it is written: That He hath given His angels charge over Thee, and in their hands shall they bear Thee up, lest perhaps Thou dash Thy foot against a stone. Jesus said to him: It is written again: Thou shalt not tempt the Lord Thy God. Again the devil took Him up into a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and said to Him: All these will I give Thee, if falling down Thou wilt adore me. Then Jesus saith to him: Begone, Satan! For it is written: The Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil left Him: and behold angels came, and ministered to Him.

The Lord will overshadow thee with His shoulders, and under His wings thou shalt trust: His truth shall compass thee with a shield.

We solemnly offer Thee, O Lord, the sacrifice of the beginning of Lent, beseeching Thee, that by refraining from carnal feasts, we may learn to avoid sinful pleasures. 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 fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards through Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

The Lord will overshadow thee with His shoulders, and under His wings thou shalt trust: His truth shall compass thee with a shield.

May the holy partaking of Thy sacrament, restore us, O Lord, and cleansing us from our old life, make us to pass into the fellowship of the mystery of 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.