

In ancient times the scrutiny of the catechumens who wished to be admitted to holy baptism on Easter Eve began today. The Mass, therefore, has a distinctly catechetical character, especially in the Lesson and the Gospel.

The Communion speaks of the ways of life; the way of the cross, of the sepulcher, and of the descent into Limbo, by which Christ passed to the glory of the Resurrection.

INTROIT Psalms 30: 7, 8

Ego autem in Dómino sperábo: exsultábo, et lætábor in tua misericórdia: quia respexisti humilitátem meam. (Ps. 30: 2) In te, Dómine, sperávi, non confúndar in ætérnum: in justítia tua líbera me, et éripe me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, quí erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Ego autem in Dómino sperábo: exsultábo, et lætábor in tua misericórdia: quia respexisti humilitátem meam.

COLLECT

Præsta nobis quæsumus, Dómine: ut salutáribus jejúniis erudítis, a nóxiis propitiatiónem tuam facílius impetrémus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Exodus 20: 12-24

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Honóra patrem tuum et matrem tuam, ut sis longævus super terram, quam Dóminus Deus tuus dabit tibi. Non occídes. Non mœcháberis. Non furtum fácies. Non loqueris contra próximum tuum falsum testimónium. Non concupisces domum próximi tui: nec desiderábis uxórem ejus, non servum, non ancíllam, non bovem, non ásinum, nec ómnia, quæ illíus sunt. Cunctus autem pópulus vidébat voces, et lámpades, et sónitum búccinæ, montémque fumántem: et pertérriti ac pavóre concússi, steterunt procul, dicéntes Móysi: Lóquere tu nobis, et audiémus: non loquátur nobis Dóminus, ne forte moriámur. Et ait Móyses ad pópulum: Nolíte timére: ut enim probáret vos, venit Deus; et ut terror illíus esset in vobis, et non peccarétis. Stetítque pópulus de longe, Móyses autem accessit ad caliginem, in qua erat Deus. Dixit prætérea Dóminus ad Móysen: Hæc dices filiis Israël: Vos vidístis, quod de cælo locútus sim vobis. Non faciétis deos argénteos, nec deos áureos faciétis vobis. Altáre de terra faciétis mihi, et offerétis super eo holocáusta et pacífica vestra, oves vestras, et boves in omni loco, in quo memória fúerit nóminis mei.

GRADUAL Psalms 6: 3, 4

Miserére mei, Dómine, quóniam infirmus sum: sana me, Dómine. Conturbáta sunt ómnia ossa mea: et ánima mea turbáta est valde.

TRACT Psalms 102: 10

Dómine, non secúndum peccáta nostra, quæ fécimus nos: neque secúndum iniquitátes nostras retríbuas nobis. (Ps. 78, 8-9) Dómine, ne memíneris iniquitátum nostrárum antiquárum: cito anticípent nos misericórdiæ tuæ, quia páuperes facti sumus nimis. (*Hic genuflectitur*) Adjuva nos, Deus salutáris noster: et propter glóriam nóminis tui, Dómine, líbera nos: et propítius esto peccátis nostris, propter nomen tuum.

GOSPEL Matthew 15: 1-20

In illo témpore: Accessérunt ad Jesum ab Jerosólymis scribæ et pharisæi, dicéntes: Quare discípuli tui transgrediúntur traditiónem seniórum? Non enim lavant manus suas, cum panem mandúcant. Ipse autem respóndens, ait illis: Quare et vos transgredímíní mandátum Dei propter traditiónem vestram? Nam Deus dixit: Honóra patrem, et matrem. Et: Qui maledíxerit patri, vel matrí, morte moriátur. Vos autem dicitis: Quicúmque díxerit patri, vel matrí: munus quodcúmque est ex me, tibi próderit: et non honorificábit patrem suum, aut matrem suam: et írritum fecístis mandátum Dei propter traditiónem vestram. Hypócritæ, bene prophetávit de vobis Isaías, dicens: Pópulus hic lábiis me honórat: cor autem eórum longe est a me. Sine causa autem colunt me, docéntes doctrínas et mandáta hóminum. Et convocátis ad se turbis, dixit eis: Audíte, et intelligíte. Non quod intrat in os, coínquinat hóminem: sed quod procedit ex ore, hoc coínquinat hóminem. Tunc accedéntes discípuli ejus, dixerunt ei: Scis quia pharisæi, ad ille verbo hoc, scandalizáti sunt? At ille respóndens, ait: Omnis plantátio, quam non plantávit Pater meus cæléstis eradicábitur. Sínte illos: cæci sunt, et duces cæcórú. Cæcus autem si cæco ducátum præstet, ambo in fóveam cadunt. Respóndens autem Petrus, dixit ei: Edíssere nobis parábolam istam. At ille dixit: Adhuc et vos sine intelléctu estis? Non intelligítis, quia omne quod in os intrat, in ventrem vadit, et in secéssum emíttitur? Quæ autem procedunt de ore, de corde éxeunt, et ea coínquinant hóminem: de corde ením éxeunt cogitatiónes malæ, homicídia, adultéria, fornicatiónes, furta, falsa testimónia, blasphemíæ. Hæc sunt, quæ coínquinant hóminem. Non lotis autem mánibus manducáre, non coínquinat hóminem.

OFFERTORY Psalms 108: 21

Dómine, fac mecum misericórdiam tuam, propter nomen tuum; quia suávis est misericórdia tua.

SECRET

Suscipe, quæsumus, Dómine, preces pópuli tui cum oblatióibus hostiárum: et tua mystéria celebrántes, ab ómnibus nos defénde perículis. 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 gratías ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largírís et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adoránt Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatione concébrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplíci confessiõe dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 15: 10

Notas mihi fecísti vias vitæ: adimplébis me lætítia cum vultu tuo, Dómine.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sanctíficet nos, Dómine, qua pasti sumus, mensa cæléstis: et a cunctis erróribus expiátus, supérnis promissióibus reddat accéptos. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Humiliáte cápita vestra Deo.

Concéde, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui protectiõnis tuæ grátiam quærimus, liberáti a malis ómnibus, secúra tibi mente serviámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

But I will hope in the Lord: I will be glad, and rejoice in Thy mercy; for Thou hast regarded my humility. (Ps. 30: 2) In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped, let me never be confounded: deliver me in Thy justice, and rescue me. 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. But I will hope in the Lord: I will be glad, and rejoice in Thy mercy; for Thou hast regarded my humility.

Grant us, we beseech Thee O Lord, that, being taught by salutary fasts, abstaining also from baneful vices, we may the more easily obtain Thy merciful forgiveness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thus saith the Lord God, Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayest be long-lived upon the land which the Lord thy God will give thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; neither shalt thou desire his wife, nor his servant, nor his handmaid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is his. And all the people saw the voices, and the flames, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mount smoking: and being terrified and struck with fear, they stood afar off, saying to Moses, Speak thou to us, and we will hear; let not the Lord speak to us, lest we die. And Moses said to the people, Fear not, for God is come to prove you, and that the dread of Him might be in you, and you should not sin. And the people stood afar off, but Moses went to the dark cloud wherein God was: and the Lord said to Moses, Thus shalt thou say to the children of Israel, You have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. You shall not make gods of silver, nor shall you make to yourselves gods of gold. You shall make an altar of earth unto Me, and you shall offer upon it your holocausts and peace offerings, your sheep and oxen, in every place where the memory of My name shall be.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak: heal me, O Lord. All my bones are troubled: and my soul is troubled exceedingly.

O Lord, repay us not according to the sins we have committed, nor according to our iniquities. (Ps. 78: 8-9) O Lord, remember not our former iniquities: let Thy mercies speedily prevent us, for we are become exceeding poor. (*Here all kneel down*) Help us, O Lord our Savior: and for the glory of Thy name, O Lord, deliver us: and forgive us our sins for Thy name's sake.

At that time, the scribes and pharisees came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying, Why do Thy disciples transgress the tradition of the ancients? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But He answering, said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God for your tradition? For God said, Honor thy father and mother; and he that shall curse father or mother, let him die the death. But you say, Whosoever shall say to father or mother, The gift whatsoever proceedeth from me, shall profit thee; and he shall not honor his father or his mother: and you have made void the commandment of God for your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well hath Isaías prophesied of you, saying, This people honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; and in vain do they worship Me, teaching doctrines and commandments of men. And having called together the multitudes unto Him, He said to them, Hear ye and understand: not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but what cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came His disciples and said to Him, Dost Thou know that the pharisees, when they heard this word were scandalized? But He answering, said, Every plant which My heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up. Let them alone, they are blind and leaders of the blind; and if the blind lead the blind, both fall into the pit. And expound to us this parable. But He said, Are you also yet without understanding? do you not understand, that whatsoever entereth into the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast into the privy? but the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and those things defile a man: for from the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies, these are the things that defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands doth not defile a man.

O Lord, be merciful to me for Thy name's sake, because Thy mercy is sweet.

Receive, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the prayers of Thy people, with offerings of sacrifices, and defend from all dangers them that celebrate Thy mysteries. 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:

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life: Thou shalt fill me with joy with Thy countenance, O Lord.

May the heavenly banquet, with which we have been regaled, sanctify us, O Lord, and render us, forgiven all our errors, fit subjects for the promises of 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.

Bow your heads to God.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who seek the grace of Thy protection, delivered from all evils, may serve Thee with untroubled minds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.