

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY

IT is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: for through the Mystery of the Word made flesh, new radiance from Thy glory hath so shone on the eye of the soul that the recognition of our God made visible draweth us to love what is invisible. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the host of the heavenly army we sing a hymn to Thy glory, evermore saying: — *Sanctus*.

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutäre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grätias agere: 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 ideo cum Angelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni militia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicétes: — *Sanctus*.

COMMUNION (Acts 7. 56, 59, 60)

I SEE the heavens opened, and Jesus standing on the right hand of the power of God: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, and lay not this sin to their charge.

VÍDEO cælos apértos, et Jesum stantem a dextris virtútis Dei: Dómine Jesu, áccipe spíritum meum, et ne státuas illis hoc peccátum.

POSTCOMMUNIONS

MAY the Mysteries we have received, O Lord, help us, and through the intercession of blessed Stephen, Thy Martyr, establish us by Thine everlasting protection. Through ...

AUXILIÉNTUR nobis, Dómine, sumpta mystéria: et, intercedénte beáto Stéphano mártire tuo, sempitérna protectióne confirmet. Per Dóminum ...

GRANT, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that as the Savior of the world, born on this day, is the Author of our heavenly birth, so He may also be to us the Giver of immortality: Who with Thee liveth and reigneth ...

PRÆSTA, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut natus hódie Salvátor mundi, sicut divínæ nobis generatiónis est auctor; ita et immortalitátis sit ipse largítor. Qui tecum vivit ...

* * *

Stephen, one of the seven Deacons, chosen by the Apostles amongst the most pious and holy disciples, to help them, received from them mission to organize the meals where the poor were fed in common. St. Stephen was renowned for his virtues and worked such great wonders and signs among the people that the Jews from five different synagogues became alarmed and summoned him before the Sanhedrin. They stoned this holy Deacon, who invoked our Lord, saying: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit ... Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." His name is inscribed in the Canon of the Mass.

Commentary by Fr. Sylvester Juergens S.M. (1894-1969) from *Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual* (Laverty 1936)

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form The Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr



He cried with a loud voice, saying: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

INTROIT (Psalm 118. 23, 86)

SEDÉRUNT principes, et advérsus me loquebántur: et iníquipersecuti sunt me: adjúva me, Dómine Deus meus, quia servus tuus exercebátur in tuis justificatióibus. *Psalm.* Beáti immaculate in via, qui ambulant in lege Dómini. *V.* Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.—Sedérunt ...

PRINCES sat, and spoke against me: and the wicked persecuted me: help me, O Lord my God, for Thy servant was employed in Thy justifications. *Ps. ibid. 1.* Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — Princes sat ...

COLLECTS

Commemoration of St. Stephen

DA NOBIS, quæsumus, Dómine, imitari quod cólimus: ut discámus et inimicos diligere; quia ejus natalitia celebrámus, qui novit étiam pro persecutóribus exoräre Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum: Qui tecum vitit et regnat ...

GRANT US, we beseech Thee, O Lord, so to imitate what we revere, that we may learn to love even our enemies: for we celebrate the heavenly Birthday of him who knew how to pray for his very persecutors to our Lord, Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who liveth and reigneth ...

Commemoration of Christmas

GRANT, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that the new birth of Thine only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free, who are held by the old bondage under the yoke of sin. Through the same Jesus Christ ...

CONCÉDE, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut nos Unigéniti tui nova per carnem nativitas liberet; quos sub peccáti jugo vetústa sêrvitus tenet. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum...

LESSON

From the Acts of the Apostles, 6, 8-10, 7, 54-59.

IN THOSE DAYS Stephen, full of grace and fortitude, did great wonders and signs among the people. Now there arose some of that which is called the synagogue of the Libertines and of the Cyrenians and of the Alexandrians and of them that were of Cilicia and Asia, disputing with Stephen: and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke. Now, hearing these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed with their teeth at him. But Stephen being full of the Holy Ghost, looking up steadfastly to heaven, saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And he said: Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. And they crying out with a loud voice stopped their ears, and with one accord ran violently upon him. And casting him forth without the city, they stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, invoking and saying: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And falling on his knees he cried with a loud voice, saying: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep in the Lord.

IN DIÉBUS ILLIS: Stéphanus plenus grátia et fortitúdi-ne, faciébat prodígia et signa magna in pópulo. Surrexérunt autem quídam de synagóga, quæ appellátur Libertínórum, et Cyrenénsium, et Alexandrinórum, et eórum, qui errant a Cilícia, et Asia, disputans cum Stéphanó: et non póterant resistere sapiéntiæ et Spíritui, qui loquebátur. Audiénts autem hæc, dissecabántur córdibus suis, et stridébant déntibus in eum. Cum autem esset Stéphanus plenus Spíritu Sancto, inténdens in cælum, vidit glóriam Dei, et Jesum stantem a dextris Dei. Et ait: Ecce video cælos apértos, et Fílium hóminis stantem a dextris Dei. Exclamántes autem voce magna continuérunt aures suas, et impetum fecérunt unanimiter in eum. Et ejiciénts eum extra civitátem, lapidábant: et testes deposuérunt vestiménta sua secus pedes adolescécntis, qui vocabátur Saulus. Et lapidábant Stéphanum invocántem, et dicéntem: Dómine Jesu, súspice spíritum meum. Pósitis autem génibus, clamávit voce magna, dicens: Dómine, ne státuas illis hoc peccátum. Et cum hoc dixisset, obdormívit in Dómino.

GRADUAL (Psalm 118. 23, 86, 117)

PRINCES sat, and spoke against me:
and the wicked persecuted me.
V̄. Help me, O Lord my God:
save me for Thy mercy's sake.

SEDÉRUNT príncipes, et advérsus me loquebántur: et iníqui persecuti sunt me. V̄. Adjúva me, Dómine Deus meus: salvum me fac propter misericórdiam tuam.

Allelúia, allelúia. V̄. Vídeo cælos apértos, et Jesum stantem a dextris virtútis Dei. Allelúia.

Alleluia, alleluia. (Acts 7. 56.) V̄. I see the heavens opened, and Jesus standing on the right hand of the power of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 23. 34-39.

IN ILLO TÊMPORE: Dicébat Jesus scribis et pharisæis: Ecce ego mitto ad vos prophétas, et sapiénts, et scribas, et ex illis occidétis et crucifigétis, et ex eis flagellábitis in synagógis vestris, et persequémini de civitáte in civitátem: ut véniat super vos omnis sanguis justus, qui effúsus est super terram, a ságuine Abel justí usque ad ságuine Zachariæ, filii Barachíæ, quem occidistis inter templum et altáre. Amen dico vobis, véniens hæc ómnia super generatió-nem istam. Jerúsalem, Jerúsalem, quæ occidit prophétas, et lapidas eos, qui ad te missi sunt, quóties volui congregáre filios tuos, quemádmódum gallína cóngregat pullos suos sub alas, et noluiti? Ecce relinquétur vobis domus vestra desérta. Dico enim vobis, non me vidébitis ámodo, donec dicátis: Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Dómini. — *Credo.*

AT that time Jesus said to the scribes and pharisees: Behold I send to you prophets and wise men and scribes, and some of them you will put to death and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, that upon you may come all the just blood that hath been shed upon the earth, from the blood of Abel the just even unto the blood of Zacharias the son of Barachias, whom you killed between the temple and the altar. Amen I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered together thy children, as the hen doth gather her chickens under her wings, and thou wouldst not? Behold your house shall be left to you desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see me henceforth, till you say: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. — *Creed.*

OFFERTORY (Acts 6. 5; 7. 59)

ELEGERUNT apostoli Stéphanum Levítam, plenum fide et Spíritu Sancto: quem lapidáverunt Judæi orántem, et dicéntem: Dómine Jesu, áccipe spíritum meum. Allelúia.

THE Apostles chose Stephen to be a Levite, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost: whom the Jews stoned, invoking and saying: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, alleluia.

SECRETS

SUSPICE, Dómine, múnera pro tuórum commemoratió-ne Sanctórum: ut, sicut illos pássio glorió-sos effécit; ita nos devotio reddat innócuos. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

RECEIVE, O Lord, our gifts, in commemoration of Thy Saints: that as suffering made them glorious, so our devotion may render us innocent. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

OBLÁTA, Dómine, múnera, nova Unigéniti tui nativitate sanctifica: nosque a peccatórum nostrórum máculis emúnda. Per eúndem Dóminum ...

SANCTIFY, O Lord, the gifts offered to Thee, by the new birth of Thine only begotten Son: and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through the same ...