

Postcommunion

THOU HAST filled Thy household, O Lord, with holy gifts; do Thou cherish us always, through the intercession of her whose festival we are keeping. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

SATIÁSTI, Dómine, familiam tuam munéribus sacrís: ejus, quæsumus, semper intervencióné nos réfove, cujus solémnia celebrámus. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

AND IF WE ASK what is the source of the special blessing attached to the language of St. Gertrude, the answer is, that it blesses because it is so impregnated with the divine Word, not only with the revelations which St. Gertrude received from her heavenly Spouse, but with the sacred Scriptures and the liturgy of the Church. This holy daughter of the cloister drank in light and life day by day from the sources of all true contemplation, from the very fountain of living waters which gushes forth from the psalms and the inspired words of the divine Office. Her every sentence shows how exclusively her soul was nourished with this heavenly food. She so lived in the liturgy of the Church that we continually find in her revelations that the Savior discloses to her the mysteries of heaven, and the Mother of God and the saints hold converse with her on some antiphon, or response, or introit, which the saint is singing with delight, and of which she is striving to feel all the force and the sweetness.

Hence that unceasing flow of unaffected poetry which seems to have become quite natural to her, and that hallowed enthusiasm which raises the literary beauty of her writings almost to the height of mystical inspiration. This child of the thirteenth century, buried in a monastery of Suabia, preceded Dante in the paths of spiritual poetry. Sometimes her soul breaks forth

into tender and touching elegy; sometimes the fire which consumes her bursts forth in transports of fervor; sometimes her feelings clothe themselves quite instinctively in a dramatic form; sometimes she stops short in her sublimest flights, and she who almost rivals the seraphim descends to earth, but only to prepare herself for a still higher flight. It is as though there had been an unending struggle between the humility which held her prostrate in the dust and the aspirations of her soul, panting after Jesus, who was drawing her, and who had lavished on her such exceeding love....

When the holy Church puts in our mouths the language of the psalms, she knows full well that that language is often far beyond the feelings of our soul. But if we wish to bring ourselves up to the level of these divine hymns, our best method is certainly to repeat them frequently in faith and humility, and await the transformation they will assuredly effect. St. Gertrude detaches us gently from ourselves, and brings us to Jesus by going before us herself, and by drawing us after her, though at a great distance. She goes straight to the heart of her divine Spouse, and she might well do so; but will it not be an inestimable blessing if she bring us to His feet like Magdalen, penitent and transformed by love?

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805-1875).

Illustration: The Wise and Foolish Virgins (detail), 1838-42. Friedrich Wilhelm Schadow (1789-1862).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

NOVEMBER 16

St. Gertrude the Great,
Virgin

Prayers at the Foot of the Altar
(see red Missal, pp. 10-13)

Introit (Psalm 44:8)

DILEXISTI justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis. *Ps. ibid. 2.* Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ópera mea Regi. *Ÿ.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. — Dilexisti justitiam ...

THOU HAST loved justice and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. *Psalm.* My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. *Ÿ.* 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. — Thou hast loved justice ...

Collect

DEUS, QUI in corde beátæ Gertrúdis Virgínis jucúndam tibi mansiónem præparásti: ipsíus méritis et intercessióne, cordis nostri máculas cleménter abstérge, et ejúsdem tríbue gaudére consórtio. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

O GOD, Who in the heart of the holy Virgin Gertrude didst provide for Thyself a pleasant dwelling: through her merits and intercession, do Thou, in Thy mercy, wash all stains from our hearts and grant us joyful fellowship with her. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Epistle (II Corinthians 10:17–18; 11:1–2)

FRATRES: Qui gloriátur, in Dómino gloriétur. Non enim qui seipsum comméndat, ille probátus est; sed quem Deus

BRETHREN: He that glory, let him glory in the Lord. For not that he that commendeth himself is approved, but he whom God

commendeth. Would to God you could bear with some little of my folly, but do bear with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God. For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Gradual (Psalm 44:5)

WITH THY comeliness and thy beauty set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Because of truth, and meekness and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully. **Alleluia, alleluia.** (*Ps. 44:15, 16.*) After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee with gladness. Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 25:1–13)

AT THAT TIME, Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: The 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

comméndat. Útinam sustinerétis módicum quid insipientiæ meæ, sed et supportáte me: æmulor enim vos Dei æmulatione. Despóndi enim vos uni viro virginem castam exhibere Christo.

SPÉCIE TUA, et pulchritudine tua inténde, prospere procéde, et regna. V̄. Propter veritátem, et mansuetúdinem, et justítiam: et dedúcet te mirabiliter dextera tua. **Allelúia, allelúia.** V̄. Adducéntur regi vírgines post eam: próxímæ ejus afferéntur tibi in lætítia. Allelúia.

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis parabolam hanc: Símile erit regnum cælórum decem virginibus: quæ, accipientes lámpades suas, exiérunt óbviam sponso et sponsæ. Quinque autem ex eis erant fátuæ, et quinque prudéntes: sed quinque fátuæ, accéptis lampádibus, non sumpsérunt óleum secum: prudéntes vero accéperunt óleum in vasis suis cum lampádibus. Moram autem faciente sponso, dormitavérunt omnes et dormiérunt. Média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit, exite óbviam ei. Tunc surrexérunt omnes vírgines illæ, et ornavérunt lámpades suas. Fátuæ autem sapientibus dixerunt: Date nobis de óleo vestro: quia lámpades nostræ exstinguúntur. Respondérunt prudéntes, dicéntes: Ne forte non sufficiat nobis et vobis, ite pótius ad vendéntes, et émite vobis. Dum autem irent émere, venit sponus: et quæ paræte erant,

intravérunt cum eo ad núptias, et clausa est jánuæ. Novíssime vero véniunt et réliquæ vírgines, dicéntes: Dómine, Dómine, áperi nobis. At ille respóndens, ait: Amen dico vobis, nescio vos. Vigilate itaque, quia nescitis diem neque horam.

Offertory (Psalm 44:10)

FÍLLÆ REGUM in honóre tuo, ástitit regína a dextris tuis in vestítu deauráto, circúmdata varietáte.

ACCÉPTA TIBI sit, Dómine, sacráte plebis oblátio pro tuórum honóre Sanctórum: quorum se méritis, de tribulatione percépsisse cognóscit auxiliúm. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum...

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli, cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exultatióne concelebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessiõe dicéntes: — *Sanctus.*

Communion (Matthew 25:4,6)

QUINQUE prudéntes vírgines accéperunt óleum in vasis suis cum lampádibus: média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit: exite óbviam Christo Dómino.

ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. But at last came 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.

THE DAUGHTERS of the King are in thine honor; the queen stood on thy right hand in gilded clothing, surrounded with variety.

Secret

MAY THIS sacrifice of thy dedicated people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy Saints: to whose merits we attribute the help afforded us tribulation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

The Common Preface

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, through Christ our Lord: through Whom Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the hosts of heaven with blessed Seraphim unite, exult, and celebrate; and we entreat that Thou wouldst bid our voices too be heard with theirs, singing with lowly praise: — *Sanctus.*

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 the Lord.