

## St. John before the Latin Gate

**T**HE BELOVED Disciple John, whom we saw standing near the crib of the Babe of Bethlehem, comes before us again today; and this time he pays his delighted homage to the glorious Conqueror of death and hell. Like Philip and James, he is clad in the scarlet robe of martyrdom. The month of May, so rich in Saints, was to be graced with the palm of St. John.

Salome one day presented her two sons to Jesus, and with a mother's ambition asked him to grant them the highest places in his kingdom. The Savior, in his reply, spoke of the chalice which he himself had to drink, and foretold that these two disciples would also drink of it. The elder, James, the Great, was the first to give his Master this proof of his love; we shall celebrate his victory when the sun is in Leo: it was today that John, the younger brother, offered his life in testimony of Jesus' divinity.

But the martyrdom of such an Apostle called for a scene worthy of the event. Asia Minor, which his zeal had evangelized, was not a sufficiently glorious land for such a combat. Rome, whither Peter had transferred his Chair and where he died on his cross, and where Paul had bowed down his venerable head beneath the sword, Rome alone deserved the honor of seeing the beloved disciple march on to martyrdom, with that dignity and sweetness which are the characteristics of this veteran of the Apostolic College.

Domitian was then Emperor—a tyrant over Rome and the world. Whether it were that John undertook this journey of his own free choice, and from a wish to visit the Mother Church, or that he was led thither bound with chains, in obedience to an imperial edict—John, the august founder of the

seven Churches of Asia Minor, appeared before the tribunal of pagan Rome. He was convicted of having propagated, in a vast province of the Empire, the worship of a Jew who had been crucified under Pontius Pilate. He was a superstitious and rebellious old man, and it was time to rid Asia of his presence. He was therefore sentenced to an ignominious and cruel death. He had somehow escaped Nero's power: but he should not elude the vengeance of Cæsar Domitian!

A huge cauldron of boiling oil is prepared in front of the Latin Gate. The sentence orders that the preacher of Christ be plunged into this bath. The hour is come for the second son of Salome to partake of his Master's chalice. John's heart leaps with joy at the thought that he—the most dear to Jesus, and yet the only Apostle that has not suffered death for him—is at last permitted to give him this earnest of his love. After cruelly scourging him, the executioners seize the old man, and throw him into the cauldron; but lo! the boiling liquid has lost all its heat; the Apostle feels no scalding; on the contrary, when they take him out again he feels all the vigor of his youthful years restored to him. The Prætor's cruelty is foiled, and John, a martyr in desire, is to be left to the Church for some few years longer. An imperial decree banishes him to the rugged isle of Patmos, where God reveals to him the future of the Church, even to the end of time.

The Church of Rome, which counts among her most glorious memories the abode and martyrdom of St. John, has marked with a Basilica the spot where the Apostle bore his noble testimony to the Christian faith. This Basilica stands near the Latin Gate, and gives a title to one of the Cardinals.



## Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

MAY 6:  
**St. John before  
the Latin Gate**

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

### Introit (Psalm 63 : 3)

PROTEXISTI ME, Deus, a convéntu malignántium, allelúia: a multítudine operántium iniquitátem, allelúia, allelúia. *Ps. ibid.* 2. Exáudi, Deus, oratiónem meam cum déprecor: a timóre inimíci éripe ánimam meam. *Ÿ.* Gló-  
ria Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in prin-  
cípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sǽculórum. Amen.  
— Protexísti ...

THOU HAST protected me, O God, from the assembly of the malignant, alleluia: from the multitude of the workers of iniquity, alleluia, alleluia. *Psalm.* Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to Thee: deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy. *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 ...

### Collect

DEUS, qui conspícis quia nos úndique mala nostra pertúr-  
bant: præsta, quǽsumus; ut beáti Joánnis Apóstoli tui et Evangelístæ intercés-  
sio gloriósa nos protegát. Per Dó-  
minum nostrum Jesum  
Christum Fílium tuum: Qui  
tecum vivit et regnat in  
unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus,  
per ómnia sǽcula sǽcu-  
lórum.

O GOD, Who beholdest that our own ill deeds disquiet us on every side, grant, we beseech Thee, that the glorious intercession of blessed John, Thine apostle and evangelist, may be our protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

### Lesson (Wisdom 5 : 1–5)

THEN SHALL the just stand with great constancy against those that have afflicted them and taken away their labors. These seeing it, shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the suddenness of their unexpected salvation, saying within themselves, repenting, and groaning for anguish of spirit: These are they whom we had some time in derision and for a parable of reproach. We fools esteemed their life madness and their end without honor; behold how they are numbered among the children of God, and their lot is among the Saints.

### Alleluia

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. *Ÿ.* (*Psalm 91:13.*) The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus. Alleluia. (*Osee 14:6.*) The just shall spring as the lily: and shall flourish forever before the Lord. Alleluia.

### Gospel (Matthew 20: 20–23)

AT THAT TIME, there came to Jesus the mother of the sons of Zebedee with her sons, adoring and asking something of Him. Who said to her: What wilt thou? She saith to Him: Say that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left, in Thy kingdom. And Jesus answering, said: You know not what you ask. Can you drink the chalice that I shall drink? They say to Him: We can. He saith to them: My chalice indeed you shall drink; but to sit on My right or left hand, is not Mine to give to you, but to them for whom it is prepared by My Father.

STABUNT iusti in magna constantia adversus eos, qui se angustiaverunt, et qui abstulerunt labores eorum. Videntes turbabuntur timore horribili, et mirabuntur in subitacione insperata salutis, dicentes intra se, penitentiam agentes, et pre angustia spiritus gementes: Hi sunt, quos habuimus aliquando in derisum, et in similitudinem improperii. Nos insensati vitam illorum aestimabamus insaniam, et finem illorum sine honore: ecce quomodo computati sunt inter filios Dei, et inter sanctos sors illorum est.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. *Ÿ.* Justus ut palma florabit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicabitur. Alleluia. *Ÿ.* Justus germinabit sicut lilium: et florabit in aeternum ante Dominum. Alleluia.

IN ILLO TEMPORE: Accessit ad Jesum mater filiorum Zebedaei cum filiis suis, adorans, et petens aliquid ab eo. Qui dixit ei: Quid vis? Ait illi: Dic ut sedeant hi duo filii mei, unus ad dexteram tuam, et unus ad sinistram in regno tuo. Respondens autem Jesus, dixit: Nescitis quid petatis. Potestis bibere calicem, quem ego bibiturus sum? Dicunt ei: Possumus. Ait illis: Calicem quidem meum bibetis: sedere autem ad dexteram meam, vel sinistram, non est meum dare vobis, sed quibus paratum est a Patre meo.

### Offertory (Psalm 88 : 6)

CONFITEBUNTUR caeli mirabilia tua, Domine: et veritatem tuam in ecclesia sanctorum, alleluia, alleluia.

MUNERIBUS nostris, quaesumus, Domine, precibusque susceptis: et caelestibus nos munda mysteriis, et clementer exaudi. Per Dominum nostrum ...

THE HEAVENS shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the church of the saints, alleluia, alleluia.

### Secret

RECEIVE, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our offerings and prayers, and cleanse us by these heavenly Mysteries, and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

### Preface of the Apostles

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, aequum et salutare, Te, Domine, suppliciter exorare, ut gregem tuum pastor aeternae non deseras: sed per beatos Apostolos tuos, continua protectione custodias. Ut iisdem rectoribus gubernetur, quos operis tui vicarios eidem contulisti praesesse pastores. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia caelestis exercitus, hymnum gloriae tuae canimus, sine fine dicentes:— *Sanctus.*

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, humbly to entreat Thee, Lord, that Thou wilt not desert Thy flock, eternal Shepherd: but through Thy blessed Apostles wilt keep it under Thy protection: that it may be governed by those same vicars of Thy work whom Thou didst put in charge as its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to Thy glory, evermore saying: — *Sanctus.*

### Communion (Psalm 63 : 11)

LATABITUR justus in Domino, et sperabit in eo: et laudabuntur omnes recti corde, alleluia, alleluia.

THE JUST shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him: and all the upright in heart shall be praised, alleluia, alleluia.

### Postcommunion

REFECTI, Domine, pane caelesti: ad vitam, quaesumus, nutriamur aeternam. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

STRENGTHENED by the Bread of Heaven, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may be nourished unto everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.