SAINT CHRISTINA.

CHRISTINA, whose very name fills the Church with the fragrance of the Spouse, comes as a graceful harbinger to the feast of the elder son of thunder. The ancient Vulsumium, seated by its lake with basalt shores and calm clear waters, was the scene of a triumph over Etruscan paganism, when this child of ten years despised the idols of the nations, in the very place where, according to the edicts of Constantine, the false priests of Umbria and Tuscany held a solemn annual reunion. The discovery of Christina’s tomb in our days has confirmed this particular of the age of the martyr as given in her Acts, which were denied authenticity by the science of recent times; one more lesson given to an infatuated criticism which mistrusts everything but itself.

As we look from the shore where the heroic child was laid to rest after her combat, and see the isle where Amalasonte, the noble daughter of Theodoric the Great, perished so tragically, the nothingness of mere earthly grandeur speaks more powerfully to the soul than the most eloquent discourse. In the thirteenth century, the Spouse, continuing to exalt the little martyr above the most illustrious queens, associated her in the triumph of his Sacrament of love: it was Christina’s Church he chose as the theatre of the famous miracle of Bolsena, which anticipated by but a few months the institution of the feast of Corpus Christi.

Let us unite our prayers and praises with those of holy Church, to honour the glorious Virgin Martyr.

ANT. Come, O Bride of Christ, receive the crown which the Lord hath prepared for thee unto all eternity.

PRAYER.

We beseech thee, O Lord, that the blessed Virgin and Martyr Christina may implore for us forgiveness; who was ever pleasing to thee by the merit of chastity, and the confession of thy power. Through our Lord, &c.

PROPER of the MASS

ST CHRISTINA,
Virgin & Martyr

July 24

INTROIT


COLLECT

Indulgéntiam nobis, quǽsumus, Dómine, beáta Christína Virgo et Martyr implóret: quæ tibi grata semper exstitit, et mérito castitátis et tuae professione virtútis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

May blessed Christina, Thy Virgin and Martyr, we beseech Thee, O Lord, obtain pardon for us: for she merited Thy constant good pleasure by her life of chastity, attributed by her to Thy power. Through our Lord ...

EPISTLE


O Lord my God, Thou hast exalted my dwelling place upon the earth, and I have prayed for death to pass away. I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that He would not leave me in the day of my trouble, and in the time of the proud without help. I will praise Thy Name continually, and will praise it with thanksgiving, and my prayer was heard. And Thou hast saved me from destruction, and hast delivered me from the evil time. Therefore I will give thanks and praise to Thee, O Lord our God.
Psalm 45:6, 5
ADJUVABIT eam Deus vultu suo: Deus in medio ejus, non commovebitur. Fluminis impetus latentificavit cives: sanctificavit tabernaculum suum Altissimus.


Matthew 13:44-52
IN illo tempore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis parabolam hanc: Simile est regnum cœlorum thesauro abscondito in agro, quem qui inventit homo, abscondit, et praecipit illud suum. Dixit ergo Jesus: Qui invenit ostendit ei unum regnum cœlorum. Qui enim invenit ostendit ei unum regnum cœlorum.

GOSPEL
At that time, Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in a field. Which a man having found, hid it, and for joy thereof goeth, and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a merchant seeking good pearls. Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way, and sold all that he had, and bought it. Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a net cast into the sea, and gathering together of all kind of fishes. Which, when it was filled, they drew out, and sitting by the shore, they chose out the good into vessels, but the bad they cast forth. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall go out, and shall separate the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have ye understood all these things? They say to him: Yes. He said unto them: Therefore every scribe instructed in the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure new things and old.

Psalm 118:121, 122, 128
Feci judicium et justitiam, Domine, non calumniarum mihi superbi: ad omnia mandata tua dirigebam, omnem viam iniquitatis odio habui.

DIVINI munera largitate satiati, quæsumus Domine Deus noster: ut, intercedente beata Christina Virgine et Martyre tua, in eis semper participacione vivamus. Per Dominum.

SECRET
Graciously receive, O Lord, the offerings consecrated to Thee by the merits of blessed Christina, Thy Virgin and Martyr, and grant that they may ever bring us help. Through our Lord.

COMMON PREFACE
It is truly meet and just, and for our salvation that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: through Christ our Lord. through Whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the Heavenly hosts together with the blessed Seraphim in triumphant chorus unite to celebrate it. Together with them we entreat Thee, that Thou mayest bid our voices also to be admitted, while we say in lowly praise:

COMMUNION
I have done judgement and justice, O Lord, give me not up to them that slander me: I was directed to all Thy commandments, I have hated all wicked ways.

POSTCOMMUNION
Filled with the Gifts of Thy divine bounty, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God; that by the intercession of blessed Christina, Thy Virgin and Martyr, we may partake thereof for evermore. Through our Lord.