

St. Tiburtius, Martyr, and St. Susanna, Virgin Martyr

August 11

SAINTS TIBURTIUS AND SUSANNA,

MARTYRS.

LAURENCE is followed to-day by the son of Chromatius, prefect of Rome, Tiburtius, who also suffered upon burning coals for the confession of his faith. Though forty years intervened between the two martyrdoms, it was the same Holy Spirit that animated these witnesses of Christ and suggested to them the same answer to their executioners. Tiburtius, walking upon the fire, cried out: "Learn that the God of the Christians is the only God, for these hot coals seem flowers to me."

Equally near to the great Archdeacon stands an illustrious virgin, so bright herself as not to be eclipsed by him. A relative of both the Emperor Diocletian and the holy Pope Caius, Susanna, it is said, one day beheld the imperial crown at her feet. But she obtained a far greater nobility; for, by preferring the wreath of virginity, she won at the same time the palm of martyrdom.

Now, as St. Leo remarks, on the glorious solemnity whose Octave we are keeping, if no one is good for himself alone, if the favours of Divine Wisdom profit not only the recipient, then, no one is more wise than the martyr, no eloquence can instruct the people so well as his. It is by this excellent manner of teaching that, as the Church tells us to-day, "Laurence enlightened the whole world with the light of his fire, and by the flames which he endured he warmed the hearts of all Christians. By the example of his martyrdom, faith is enkindled and devotion fostered in our souls. The persecutor lays no hot coals for me, but he sets me on fire with desire of my Saviour."¹ If, moreover, and it is not mere theory to repeat it in our days, if, as St. Augustine remarks, "circumstances place a man in the alternative of transgressing a divine precept or losing his life, he too must know how to die for the love of God, rather than live at enmity with him."² Morality does not change, neither does the justice of God, who in all ages rewards the faithful, as in all ages he chastises cowards.

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

INTROIT Psalm 36 : 39

Salus autem justórum a Dómino: et protéctor eórum est in témpore tribulatiónis. (Ps. 36: 1) Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Salus autem ...

COLLECT

Sanctórum Martyrum tuórum Tiburtii et Susánnæ nos, Dómine, fóveant continuáta præsidia: quia non désinis propítius intuéri; quos tálibus auxiliis concésseris adjuvári. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum ...

EPISTLE Hebrews 11: 33-39

Fratres: Sancti per fidem vicérunt regna, operáti sunt justítiam, adépti sunt repromissiónes, obturavérunt ora leónum, extinxérunt ímpetum ignis, effugérunt áciem gládii, convaluérunt de infirmitáte, fortes facti sunt in bello, castra vertérunt exterórum: accepérunt mulieres de resurrectióne mórtuos suos: álii autem distéti sunt, non suscipiéntes redemptiónem, ut meliorem invenírent resurrectiónem: álii vero ludibria et vérbera expérti, însuper et víncula et cárceres: lapidáti sunt, secti sunt, tentáti sunt, in occisióne gládii mórtui sunt: circuíerunt in melótis, in péllibus caprínis, egéntes, angustiáti, afflícti: quibus dignus non erat mundus: in solitudínibus errantes, in móntibus et spelúncis et in cavérnis terræ. Et hi omnes testimónio fidei probáti, invénti sunt in Christo Jesu, Dómino nostro.

The salvation of the just is from the Lord: and He is their protector in the time of trouble. (Ps. 36: 1) Be not emulous of evil-doers: nor envy them that work iniquity. 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. The salvation of the just ...

May the constant protection of Thy holy martyrs, Tiburtius and Susanna, support us, O Lord, for Thou dost never cease mercifully to regard those to whom Thou hast granted such assistance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

Brethren, The Saints by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, put to flight the armies of foreigners. Women received their dead raised to life again. But others were racked, not accepting deliverance, that they might find a better resurrection. And others had trial of mockeries and stripes, moreover also of bands and prisons. They were stoned, they were cut asunder, they were tempted, they were put to death by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being in want, distressed, afflicted, of whom the world was not worthy; wandering in deserts, in mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth. And all these were found approved by the testimony of faith, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GRADUAL Psalm 33: 18-19

Clamaverunt justī, et Dōminus exaudivit eos: et ex omnibus tribulatiōnibus eōrum liberāvit eos. Juxta est Dōminus his, qui tribulāto sunt corde: et hūmiles spiritu salvābit.

The just cried, and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart; and He will save the humble of spirit.

ALLELUIA

Allelūia, allelūia. Te Mārtyrum candidātus laudat exercitus, Dōmine. Allelūia.

Alleluia, alleluia. The white-robed army of martyrs praiseth Thee, O Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 12: 1-8

In illo tēpore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Attēdite a fermēto pharisæorum, quod est hypōcrisis. Nihil autem opērtum est, quod non revelētur: neque absconditum, quod non sciātur. Quōniam, quæ in tēnebris dixistis, in lūmine dicentur: et quod in aurem locuti estis in cubiculis, prædicābitur in tectis. Dico autem vobis amicis meis: Ne terreāmini ab his, qui occidunt corpus, et post hæc non habent āmplius quid fāciant. Ostēdam autem vobis, quem timeātis: timēte eum, qui, postquam occidit, habet potestātem mittere in gehēnnam. Ita dico vobis: hunc timēte. Nonne quinque pāsseres véneunt dipōndio, et unus ex illis non est in oblivione coram Deo? Sed et capilli cāpitis vestri omnes numerāri sunt. Nolite ergo timēre: multis passēribus pluris estis vos. Dico autem vobis: Omnis, quicumque confēssus fuerit me coram hominibus, et Filius hōminis confitētur illum coram Angelis Dei.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed: nor hidden, that shall not be known. For whatsoever things you have spoken in darkness, shall be published in the light; and that which you have spoken in the ear in chambers shall be preached on the house-tops. And I say to you, My friends, be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you Whom you shall fear: fear ye Him Who, after He hath killed, hath power to cast into Hell. Yea, I say to you, fear Him. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings and not one of them is forgotten before God? Yea, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows. And I say to you, whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

OFFERTORY Wisdom 3: 1-3

Justōrum animæ in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormētum malitiæ: visi sunt oculis insipiēntium mori: illi autem sunt in pace, allelūia.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of malice shall not touch them: in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are in peace, alleluia.

SECRET

Adēsto, Dōmine, præcibus pōpuli tui, adēsto munēribus: ut, quæ sacris sunt oblāta mystēriis, tuōrum tibi plāceant intercessiōne Sanctōrum. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitāte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

Listen, O Lord, to the prayers of Thy people; look with favor on their offerings, that those things which are offered in the sacred mysteries may please Thee by the intercession of Thy saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

COMMUNION Matthew 10: 27

Quod dico vobis in tēnebris, dicite in lūmine, dicit Dōminus: et quod in aure auditis, prædicāte super tecta.

That which I tell you in the dark, speak ye in the light; and that which you hear in the ear preach ye upon the housetops.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sūmpsimus, Dōmine, pignus redemptiōnis ætērnæ: quod sit nobis, quæsumus, interveniētibz sanctis Mārtyribz tuis, vitæ præsentis auxilium pāriter et futuræ. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitāte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

We have received, O Lord, the pledge of everlasting redemption; may it, by the intercession of Thy holy Martyrs, be our aid alike in the present and in the life to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.