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 salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubíque grátias agere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, 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 ídeo cum Angelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatiónibus, cumque omni milítia cœléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes: — *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 cœlos 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 mártyre tuo, sempitérna protectióne confírment. 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, omnípotens 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
Click Here to Insert the Name of Your Parish

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

INTROIT (Psalm 118. 23, 86)

SEDÉRUNT príncipes, et advérsum me loquebántur: et iníqui persecuti sunt me: adjúva me, Dómine Deus meus, quia servus tuus exercebátur in tuis justificatiónibus. *Psalm.* Beáti immaculate in via, qui ambulant in lege Dómini. ℣. Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípio, 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. ℣. 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, imitári quod cólimus: ut discámus et inimícos dilígere; quia ejus natalítia celebrámus, qui novit étiam pro persecutóribus exoráre Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium 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, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut nos Unigéniti tui nova per carnem natívitas líberet; quos sub peccáti jugo vetústa sérvitus 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 fortitúdine, faciébat prodígia et signa magna in pópulo. Surrexérunt autem quidam de synagóga, quæ appellátur Libertinórum, et Cyrenénsium, et Alexandrinórum, et eórum, qui errant a Cilícia, et Asia, disputants cum Stéphano: et non póterant resístere sapiéntiæ et Spirítui, qui loquebátur. Audiéntes autem hæc, dissecabántur córdibus suis, et stridébant déntibus in eum. Cum autem esset Stéphanus plenus Spíritu Sancto, inténdens in cœlum, vidit glóriam Dei, et Jesum stantem a dextris Dei. Et ait: Ecce video cœlos apértos, et Fílium hóminis stantem a dextris Dei. Exclamántes autem voce magna continuérunt aures suas, et ímpetum fecérunt unanímiter in eum. Et ejiciéntes eum extra civitátem, lapidábant: et testes deposuérunt vestiménta sua secus pedes adolescéntis, 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 dixísset, obdormívit in Dómino.

GRADUAL (Psalm 118. 23, 86, 117)

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

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

Allelúia, allelúia. ℣. Vídeo cœlos apértos, et Jesum stantem a dextris virtútis Dei. Allelúia.

Alleluia, alleluia. *(Acts 7. 56.)* ℣. 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 TÉMPORE: Dicébat Jesus scribis et pharisæis: Ecce ego mitto ad vos prophétas, et sapiéntes, 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 sánguine Abel justi usque ad sánguine Zacharíæ, fílii Barachíæ, quem occidístis inter templum et altáre. Amen dico vobis, vénient hæc ómnia super generatiónem istam. Jerúsalem, Jerúsalem, quæ occídis prophétas, et lápidas eos, qui ad te missi sunt, quóties vólui congregáre fílios tuos, quemádmodum gallína cóngregat pullos suos sub alas, et noluísti? Ecce relinquétur vobis domus vestra desérta. Dico enim vobis, non me vidébitis ámodo, donec dicátis: Benedíctus, 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 lapidavérunt 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 commemoratióne Sanctórum: ut, sicut illos pássio gloriósos effécit; ita nos devótio 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 nativitáte sanctífica: 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 …