

December 27

St John the Evangelist

St John, the 'beloved disciple', was called by Christ together with his brother James. He was the only Apostle who did not abandon his Lord at the Crucifixion, and he was charged with caring for Our Lady. Traditionally he is identified with the author of the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. According to legends he was protected from attempts to kill him both by poison and by boiling oil. In the Middle Ages, and especially in convents, he was much venerated for his chastity and love for Christ, and sometimes (like in the Sequence) he was even referred to as a Virgin Saint.

Station at St Mary Major

White

2 Cl. (Duplex 2 Cl.)

INTROIT: *Ecclus. 15:5*

In medio Ecclesiae aperuit os ejus et implevit eum Dominus spiritu sapientiae et intellectus : stolam gloriae induit eum. *Ps. 91:2: Bonum est confiteri Domino : et psallere nomini tuo, Altissime. V. Gloria.*

In the midst of the Church the Lord opened his mouth : and filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding : and clothed him with a robe of glory. Ps. 91:2: It is good to give praise to the Lord : and to sing to thy name, O Most High. V. Gloria.

COLLECTS

Ecclesiam tuam, Domine, benignus illustra : ut, beati Joannis Apostoli tui et Evangelistae illuminata doctrinis, ad dona perveniat sempiterna. Per Dominum nostrum.

In thy goodness, O Lord, enlighten thy Church : that, illumined by the teaching of blessed John, thy Apostle and Evangelist, she may attain to everlasting gifts. Through our Lord.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Concede, quaesumus, omnipotens Deus : ut nos Unigeniti tui nova per carnem natiuitas liberet, quos sub peccati iugo vetusta servitus tenet. Per eundem Dominum.

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that the new birth, in the flesh, of thine only-begotten Son may set us free, whom the old bondage doth hold under the yoke of sin. Through the same Lord.

LESSON: *Ecclus. 15:1-6*

Lectio libri Sapientiae.

Qui timet Deum, faciet bona : et qui continens est iustitiae, apprehendet illam, et obviabit illi quasi mater honorificata. Cibabit illum pane vitae et intellectus, et aqua sapientiae salutaris portabit illum : et firmabitur in illo, et non flectetur : et continebitur illum, et non confundetur : et exaltabit illum apud proximos suos, et in medio Ecclesiae aperiet os ejus, et adimplebit illum spiritu sapientiae et intellectus, et stola gloriae vestiet illum. Jucunditatem et exultationem

A lesson from the Book of Wisdom.

He that feareth God will do good; and he that possesseth justice shall lay hold on her, and she will meet him as an honourable mother. With the bread of life and understanding she shall feed him, and give him the water of wholesome wisdom to drink : and she shall be made strong in him, and he shall not be moved; and she shall hold him fast, and he shall not be confounded; and she shall exalt him among his neighbours, and in the midst of the Church she shall open his mouth, and shall fill him with the spirit of

thesaurizabit super illum, et nomine æterno
hæreditabit illum Dominus Deus noster.

*wisdom and understanding, and shall clothe him with
a robe of glory. The Lord our God shall heap upon
him a treasure of joy and gladness, and shall cause
him to inherit an everlasting name.*

GRADUAL: *Jn. 21:23, 19*

Exiit sermo inter fratres, quod discipulus ille
non moritur. Et non dixit Jesus : Non moritur.
Ÿ Sed : Sic eum volo manere donec veniam : tu
me sequere.

*A saying went abroad among the brethren, that that
disciple should not die. And Jesus did not say: He
shall not die. Ÿ But: So I will have him remain till I
come : follow thou me.*

ALLELUIA: *Jn. 21:24*

Hic est discipulus ille, qui testimonium perhibet
de his : et scimus quia verum est testimonium
ejus.

*This is that disciple who giveth testimony of these
things : and we know that his testimony is true.*

ad libitum: SEQUENCE (attributed to Bl. Notker Balbulus, + 912)

Joannes, Jesu Christo multum dilecte virgo,

Thou, O John, Virgin much beloved by Jesus Christ,

Tu, ejus amore carnalem
In nave parentem liquisti.

*For whose love thou hast left thy father according to
the flesh in a boat.*

Tu lene conjugis pectus respuisti, Messiam
secutus.
Ut ejus pectoris sacra meruisses fluenta potare.

*Thou hast rejected the soft breast of a wife, following
the Messiah,
That thou mayest drink the holy [wisdom] flowing
from His breast [an allusion to John's head rest-
ing on Christ's breast at the Last Supper].*

Tuque in terra positus, gloriam conspexisti Filii
Dei,
Quæ solum sanctis in vita creditur contuenda
esse perenni.

*And thou, [still] placed on earth, hast seen the glory
of the Son of God,
Which, as we believe, the Saints can only behold in
the eternal life.*

Te Christus in cruce triumphans matri suæ
dedit custodem,
Ut virgo Virginem servares atque curam
suppeditares.

*Thee Christ, triumphant on the cross, gave as a
guardian to his mother,
That thou, virgin, wouldst serve the Virgin and sup-
port her in her needs.*

Tute carcere flagrisque fractus testimonio pro
Christi es gavisus.
Idem mortuos suscitans, inque Jesu nomine
venenum forte vincis.

*Broken through prison and beatings, thou couldst
still rejoice in Christ's testimony.
Thou resurrectest the dead, and in Jesus's name thou
vanquishest the strong poison.*

Tibi summus tacitum cæteris Verbum suum
Pater revelat.
Tu nos omnes precibus sedulis apud Deum
semper commenda,
(Ter) Joannes Jesu care.

*The most high Father revealeth to thee his Word, of
which He was silent to the others.
Commend all of us always with assiduous prayers to
God,
(Thrice) John, beloved of Jesus.*

GOSPEL: *Jn. 21:19-24*

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem.

In illo tempore : Dixit Jesus Petro : Sequere me. Conversus Petrus vidit illum discipulum, quem diligebat Jesus, sequentem, qui et recubuit in cœna super pectus ejus, et dixit : Domine, quis est qui tradet te? Hunc ergo cum vidisset, Petrus dixit Jesu : Domine hic autem quid? Dicit ei Jesus : Sic eum volo manere donec veniam, quid ad te? tu me sequere. Exiit ergo sermo iste inter fratres quia discipulus ille non moritur. Et non dixit ei Jesus : Non moritur, sed : Sic eum volo manere donec veniam, quid ad te? Hic est discipulus ille, qui testimonium perhibet de his et scripsit hæc : et scimus quia verum est testimonium ejus.

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St John.

At that time: Jesus said to Peter: Follow me. Peter turning about, saw that disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also leaned on his breast at supper, and said: Lord, who is he that shall betray thee? Him therefore when Peter had seen, he saith to Jesus: Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith to him: So I will have him to remain till I come, what is it to thee? Follow thou me. This saying therefore went abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die. And Jesus did not say to him: He should not die; but : So I will have him to remain till I come, what is it to thee? This is that disciple who giveth testimony of these things, and hath written these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

OFFERTORY: *Ps. 91:13, 2, 3, 14*

Justus ut palma florebit : sicut cedrus, quæ in Libano est, multiplicabitur. *℟.* Bonum est confiteri Domino : et psallere nomini tuo, Altissime. *℟.* Ad adnuntiandum mane misericordiam tuam : et veritatem tuam per noctem. *℟.* Plantatus in domo Domini, in atriis domus Dei nostri florebit.

The just man shall flourish like the palm-tree : he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus. ℟ It is good to give praise to the Lord : and to sing to thy name, O most High. ℟ To show forth thy mercy in the morning : and thy truth in the night. ℟ He who is planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

SECRETS

Suscipe, Domine, munera, quæ in ejus tibi solemnitate deferimus, cujus nos confidimus patrocinio liberari. Per Dominum.

Receive, O Lord, the gifts we offer on the feast of him by whose patronage we hope to be delivered. Through our Lord.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Oblata, Domine, munera nova Unigeniti tui nativitate sanctifica : nosque a peccatorum nostrorum maculis emunda. Per eundem Dominum.

Sanctify, O Lord, the gifts we offer by the new birth of thine only-begotten Son, and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. Through the same Lord.

PREFACE

Of Christmas

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique, gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus. Quia per incarnati Verbi mysterium, nova mentis nostræ oculis lux tuæ claritatis infulsit : ut dum visibiliter Deum cognoscimus, per hunc in invisibilium amorem rapiamur. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis

It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, that we should always, and in all places, give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God. For by the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the light of thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind : so that while we acknowledge him as God seen by men, we may be drawn by him to the love of things unseen. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts

exercitus, hymnum gloriæ tuæ canimus, sine fine dicentes :

Today, the COMMUNICANTES of the CANON begins as follows

Communicantes, et diem sacratissimum celebrantes, qua beatæ Mariæ intemerata virginitas huic mundo edidit Salvatorem : sed et memoriam venerantes, in primis ejusdem gloriosæ semper Virginis Mariæ, Genitricis ejusdem Dei et Domini nostri Jesu Christi ...

of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to thy glory, evermore saying:

Communicating, and keeping that most holy day, on which the spotless virginity of the blessed Mary brought forth a Saviour to this world; and also venerating the memory, first of the same glorious Mary, ever a Virgin, Mother of the same our God and Lord Jesus Christ ...

COMMUNION: Jn. 21:23

Exiit sermo inter fratres, quod discipulus ille non moritur. Et non dixit Jesus : Non moritur; sed : Sic eum volo manere donec veniam.

A saying went abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die; and Jesus did not say: He should not die; but: So I will have him remain till I come.

POST-COMMUNIONS

Refecti cibo potuque cælesti, Deus noster, te supplices deprecamur : ut in cujus hæc commemoratione percepimus, ejus muniamur et precibus. Per Dominum.

For the Octave of Christmas:

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus : ut natus hodie Salvator mundi, sicut divinæ nobis generationis est auctor, ita et immortalitatis sit ipse largitor. Qui tecum vivit.

Refreshed with heavenly food and drink, we humbly beseech thee, our God, that we may be protected through his prayers in whose memory we have partaken of these mysteries. Through our Lord.

Grant, we beseech thee, O almighty God, that, as the Saviour of the world, who was born this day, procured for us divine sonship, he may also bestow on us immortality. Who liveth.