

September 15

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Although this feast was only established in 1817 – to commemorate the suffering of the Church during and after the French Revolution – it goes back to late medieval devotion. Many writers from this period admonished their readers to deepen their faith by feeling and suffering with Christ’s earthly life, and Mary’s compassion provided the perfect example for this devotion – a concept that is masterly expressed in the SEQUENCE.

White

2 Cl. (Duplex 2 Cl.)

INTROIT: *Jn. 19:25*

Stabant juxta crucem Jesu mater ejus, et soror matris ejus, Maria Cleophæ, et Salome et Maria Magdalene. *ibid.* 26-27: Mulier, ecce filius tuus, dixit Jesus : ad discipulum autem, Ecce mater tua. ✠ Gloria.

There stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Salome, and Mary Magdalen. ibid. 26-27: Woman, behold thy son, said Jesus; to the disciple, however: Behold thy mother. ✠ Glory.

COLLECT

Deus, in cujus passione, secundum Simeonis prophetiam, dulcissimam animam gloriosæ Virginis et Matris Mariæ doloris gladius pertransivit : concede propitius; ut, qui dolores ejus venerando recolimus, passionis tuæ effectum felicem consequamur. Qui vivis.

O God, in whose passion, according to the prophecy of Simeon, a sword of grief pierced the most sweet soul of the glorious Virgin and Mother Mary; mercifully grant that we who celebrate with reverence the memory of her dolours may obtain the happy effect of thy passion. Who livest.

LESSON: *Judith 13:22-25, 15:10*

Lectio libri Judith.

Benedixit te Dominus in virtute sua, quia per te ad nihilum redegit inimicos nostros. Benedicta es tu, filia, a Domino Deo excelso, præ omnibus mulieribus super terram. Benedictus Dominus, qui creavit cælum et terram, qui te direxit in vulnera capitis principis inimicorum nostrorum : quia hodie nomen tuum ita magnificavit, ut non recedat laus tua de ore hominum, qui memores fuerint virtutis Domini in æternum, pro quibus non pepercisti animæ tuæ propter angustias et tribulationem generis tui, sed subvenisti ruinæ ante conspectum Dei nostri.

A lesson from the Book of Judith.

The Lord hath blessed thee by his power, because by thee he hath brought our enemies to nought. Blessed art thou, O daughter, by the Lord, the most high God, above all women on the earth. Blessed be the Lord who made heaven and earth, who hath directed thee to the cutting off the head of the prince of our enemies. Because he hath so magnified thy name this day that thy praise shall not depart out of the mouths of men who shall be mindful of the power of the Lord forever, for that thou hast not spared thy life, by reason of the distress and tribulation of thy people, but hast prevented our ruin in the presence of our God.

GRADUAL

Dolorosa et lacrimabilis es, Virgo Maria, stans juxta crucem Domini Jesu, Filii tui, Redemptoris. ✠ Virgo Dei Genitrix, quem totus non

Thou art sorrowful and worthy of tears, O Virgin Mary, standing near the cross of the Lord Jesus, thy Son, our Redeemer. ✠ O Virgin Mother of God, he

capit orbis, hoc crucis fert supplicium, auctor
vitæ factus homo.

*whom the whole world doth not contain, the author of
life, made man, beareth this punishment of the cross.*

ALLELUIA

Stabat sancta Maria, cæli regina et mundi domi-
na, juxta crucem Domini nostri Jesu Christi
dolorosa.

*Holy Mary, the Queen of heaven, the mistress of the
world, stood sorrowing under the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ.*

SEQUENCE

Stabat Mater dolorosa
Juxta crucem lacrimosa,
Dum pendebat Filius.

*The Mother full of sorrows
Stood weeping next to the cross
Whilst her Son was hanging on it.*

Cujus animam gementem,
Contristatam et dolentem,
Pertransivit gladius.

*Whose soul, moaning,
Saddened and suffering,
A sword was piercing.*

O, quam tristis et afflicta
Fuit illa benedicta
Mater Unigeniti.

*Lo, how sad and afflicted shaken
Was the blessed
Mother of the only Son.*

Quis est homo, qui non fleret,
Matrem Christi si videret
In tanto supplicio ?

*Who is the man who would not weep
To see the mother of Christ thus
In such a suffering?*

Quis non posset contristari,
Christi matrem contemplari
Dolentem cum Filio?

*Who could not be saddened,
When beholding the Mother of God
Suffering with the Son?*

Pro peccatis suæ gentis
Vidit Jesum in tormentis,
Et flagellis subditum.

*Through the sins of her people
She seeth Christ in torments
And beaten with scorches.*

Vidit suum dulcem Natum
Moriendo desolatum,
Dum emisit spiritum.

*She seeth her kind Son
Left alone in death
When he gave up his spirit.*

Eja, Mater, fons amoris,
Me sentire vim doloris
Fac, ut tecum lugeam.

*Lo, O mother, fountain of love
Let me feel the power of thy suffering,
Make me mourn with thee.*

Fac, ut ardeat cor meum
In amando Christum Deum,
Ut sibi complaceam.

*Make my heart burn
In love for Christ, the God,
That I might please him.*

Sancta Mater, istud agas,
Crucifixi fige plagas
Cordi meo valide.

*Holy Mother, do thus,
Fix the wounds of the Crucified
Strong into my heart.*

Tui Nati vulnerati
Tam dignati pro me pati,
Pœnas mecum divide.

*Share with me the suffering
Of Thy wounded Son
Who had deigned to suffer for me.*

Fac me tecum pie flere,
Crucifixo condolere,
Donec ego vixero.

*Make me piously weep with thee
To suffer with the crucified,
As long as I shall live.*

Juxta crucem tecum stare,
Et me tibi sociare
In planctu desidero.

*I beg with weeping
To stand with thee next to the cross
And to be thy associate.*

Virgo virginum præclara,
Mihi jam non sis amara :
Fac me tecum plangere.

*Most famous Virgin of virgins,
For me thou art no longer bitter,
Make me weep with thee.*

Fac ut portem Christi mortem,
Passionis fac consortem,
Et plagas recolere.

*Make that I might carry the death of Christ,
Make me a companion of his passion
And to remember his wounds.*

Fac me plagis vulnerari,
Face me cruce inebriari
Et cruore Filii.

*Make me wounded by his wounds,
Make me drunken of the cross
And the blood of thy Son.*

Flammis ne urar succensus,
Per te, Virgo, sim defensus
In die judicii.

*Lest I be burnt in the flames,
May I be protected by thee, O Virgin
On the day of judgment.*

Christe, cum sit hinc exire,
Da per Matrem me venire
Ad palmam victoriæ.

*Christ, when I have to leave from here,
Grant that I might come through thy mother
To the palm of victory.*

Quando corpus morietur,
Fac ut animæ donetur
Paradisi gloria. Amen, Alleluia.

*When the body dieth,
Make that to the soul be given
The glory of paradise. Amen, Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: Jn. 19:25-27

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem.

*Continuation of the holy Gospel according to
St John.*

In illo tempore : Stabant juxta crucem Jesu mater ejus, et soror matris ejus, Maria Cleophæ, et Maria Magdalene. Cum vidisset ergo Jesus matrem, et discipulum stantem, quem diligebat, dicit matri suæ : Mulier, ecce filius tuus. Deinde dicit discipulo : Ecce mater tua. Et ex illa hora accepit eam discipulus in sua.

At that time: There stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing, whom he loved, he saith to his mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, he saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.

OFFERTORY: *Jer. 18:20*

Recordare, Virgo Mater Dei, dum steteris in conspectu Domini, ut loquaris pro nobis bona, et ut avertas indignationem suam a nobis.

Remember, O Virgin, Mother of God, to intercede on our behalf before the Lord, and to turn away his anger from us.

SECRET

Offerimus tibi preces et hostias, Domine Jesu Christi, humiliter supplicantes : ut, qui transfixionem dulcissimi spiritus beatæ Mariæ Matris tuæ precibus recensemus, suo, suorumque sub cruce sanctorum consortium, multiplicato piissimo interventu, meritis mortis tuæ meritum cum beatis habeamus. Qui vivis et regnas.

We offer unto thee our prayers and oblations, O Lord Jesus Christ, humbly beseeching thee that, even as in our prayers we recall the piercing of the most sweet soul of thy blessed mother Mary, so through the merits of thy death, and the manifold intercession of thy Mother and her holy companions at the foot of the cross, we may share in the reward of the blessed. Who livest and reignest.

PREFACE

Of Our Lady

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus : Et te in Transfixione beatæ Mariæ semper Virginis collaudare, benedicere, et prædicare. Quæ et Unigenitum tuum Sancti Spiritus obumbratione concepit : et virginitatis gloria permanente, lumen æternum mundo effudit, Jesum Christum, Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Cæli, cælorumque Virtutes, ac beata Seraphim, socia exultatione concelebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes :

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. And on the Transfixion of the blessed Mary, ever a Virgin, should praise and bless and proclaim thee. For she conceived thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost; and, losing not the glory of her virginity, gave to the world the everlasting light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise thy majesty, the Dominions adore, the Powers tremble. The Heavens, and the Virtues of the heavens, and the blessed Seraphim, do celebrate with united joy. In union with whom we beseech thee, that thou wouldst command our voices also to be admitted, with suppliant confession, saying:

COMMUNION

Felices sensus beatæ Mariæ Virginis, qui sine morte meruerunt martyrii palmam sub cruce Domini.

Happy the senses of the blessed Virgin Mary, which without death obtained the palm of martyrdom beside the cross of the Saviour.

POST-COMMUNION

Sacrificia, quæ sumpsimus, Domine Jesu Christi, transfixionem Matris tuæ et Virginis devote celebrantes, nobis impetrent apud clementiam tuam omnis boni salutaris effectum. Qui vivis.

O Lord Jesus Christ, may the sacrifice of which we have partaken in devout remembrance of the anguish of thy Virgin Mother obtain for us from thy mercy the fruit of every good and salutary gift. Who livest and reignest.