

26 November

**Saint John Berchmans, Religious**

**Memorial**

**John Berchmans** (1599-1621) was born in Driest, Belgium. He joined the Jesuit novitiate when he was seventeen. He excelled in his studies and was selected to defend the entire course of philosophy in July 1621 in a public disputation. His health suffered from the effort he put into studying for his final examination, and he became steadily weaker as he prepared for the disputation. He fell seriously ill and died on 13 August 1621. He is the Patron Saint of altar servers.

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Ps 42 (41): 5b**

I went up to the place  
of your wondrous tent,  
all the way to the house of God,  
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving.

**Collect**

**O God, who invite us always to give you our love,  
and delight in a cheerful giver,  
grant that, following the example  
of the youthful Saint John Berchmans,  
we may, with eager spirit, seek you in all things  
and please you in all we do.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

**Let us not abandon, O Lord, the love we had at first,  
that, filled with the consolation of your Son's sacrifice,  
we may carry out in desire and deed  
what the Spirit says to the Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon (RM)**

Ps 34 (33): 9

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Lord God, who in this eucharistic meal  
strengthen our love for each other, grant that,  
as Saint John gave witness to your goodness,  
we too may be friends in the Lord  
to our brothers and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

## **PREFACE I OF RELIGIOUS (JESUIT PROPER)**

**Contemplating the joy of those already in the holy city**

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And with your spirit.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts.**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/. It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For among the members of our Society,  
of whatever grade or position, age or ministry,  
you have raised up many Saints and Blessed,  
allowing us the joy in this life  
of contemplating even now the holy city,  
the new Jerusalem, which is our mother.**

**Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth  
sing a new song in adoration,  
and we, with all the host of Angels,  
cry out, and without end we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

## **PREFACE II OF RELIGIOUS (RM)**

### **The sign of a life consecrated to God**

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And with your spirit.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts.**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/. It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For in the Saints who consecrated themselves to Christ  
for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven,  
it is right to celebrate the wonders of your providence,  
by which you call human nature back to its original holiness  
and bring it to experience on this earth  
the gifts you promise in the new world to come.**

**And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .**