

DECEMBER 3
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIEST, RELIGIOUS
FEAST

Born of a noble Spanish family in 1506, he became a follower of Saint Ignatius during his studies in Paris. He was ordained priest in Venice in 1537 and gave himself to charitable works in various Italian cities. He was sent to the East in 1541, and for ten years preached the Gospel in India and Japan with great vigor, converting many to the faith. He died within reach of China in 1552, and was canonized by Gregory XV in 1622.

INVITATORY

Ant.: As we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis, let us adore Jesus Christ, the light of the nations.

(Invitatory Psalm as in the Ordinary)

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

Hymn (cf. Eph. 6:10-17)

Let your might be the Lord Almighty,
your strength be his strength alone.
Let your armor be all God's armor,
lest you yield to the devil's guile,
For you fight with no mortal foeman,
but ranged in rank on rank
Stands the princes of outer darkness,
high kings of a wilful world.

Let the truth be your belt in battle,
make justice your breastplate bright.
Let your feet wear the shoes of swiftness,
as you spread the good news of peace.
Let the shield that is faith defend you
from harm by Satan's hosts.
Let your helmet be God's salvation,
your sword be the Spirit's word.

Psalmody

Ant. 1: Let all the earth adore you, Lord, and rejoice,
because you have come forth as the new light of all the
ages.

Psalm 18:1-7

The heavens declare the glory of God
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard,
yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Ant.: Let all the earth adore you, Lord, and rejoice,
because you have come forth as the new light of all the
ages.

Ant. 2: Their span extends through all the earth, their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

Psalm 96

The Lord is king, let the earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

A fire prepares his path;
it burns up his foes on every side.
His lightnings light up the world,
the earth trembles at the sight.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory.

Let those who serve idols be ashamed,
those who boast of their worthless gods.
All you spirits, worship him.

Sion hears and is glad;
the people of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord loves those who hate evil:
he guards the souls of his saints;
he sets them free from the wicked.

Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name.

Ant.: Their span extends through all the earth, their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

Ant. 3: They proclaimed the justice of God, and all peoples saw his glory.

Psalm 65: 1-12

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God, "How tremendous your deeds!

"Because of the greatness of your strength
your enemies cringe before you.
Before you all the earth shall bow,
shall sing to you, sing to your name!"

Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.
He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.
His eyes keep watch over the nations:
let rebels not rise against him.

O peoples, bless our God,
let the voice of his praise resound,
of the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling.

For you, O God, have tested us,
you have tried us as silver is tried:
you led us, O God, into the snare;
you laid a heavy burden on our backs.

You let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water
but then you brought us relief.

Ant.: They proclaimed the justice of God, and all peoples saw his glory.

V. They spoke of the praises of God and of his power.

R. And the wonderful things he did.

First Reading (Acts 10:34-48)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles.

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who

fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning with Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest, not to all the people, but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can any one forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Responsory (Acts 12:24; 13:48, 52)

R. The word of God grew and multiplied; and as many

as were ordained to eternal life believed.

V. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
And as many. . . .

Second Reading

An extract from two letters from Saint Francis Xavier to Saint Ignatius, dated October 28, 1542 and January 15, 1544.

(Spanish text in *Epistolae S. Francisci Xaverii aliaque eius scripta*, ed. G. Schurhammer, S.J., and I. Wicki, S.J., t. 1, MHSI, vol.67, Rome, 1944, pp. 147-148 and 166-167. English translation adapted in part from J. Brodrick, S.J., *St. Francis Xavier*, Burns Oates, London, 1952, pp. 132, 157-158.)

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

We entered some villages of Christians, who had been baptized about eight years ago. It is an area uninhabited by the Portugese, because of its extreme barrenness and poverty; the native Christians, having no one to instruct them in our faith, know nothing about it save only the fact that they are Christians. There is no one to say Mass, no one to teach them the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, or the Ten Commandments.

Whenever I came to one of these villages I baptized all the children who had not yet been baptized. So I baptized a great number of babies "who did not know their right hand from their left" (Jonah 4:11). The children in these villages would not allow me any time to say my office, or to eat or sleep, until I had taught them some prayers. Then I came to realize that "of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 19:14). As it would have been wrong for me to refuse so holy a request, I began with the sign of the cross, then the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, and the Hail Mary.

I noted that they had considerable abilities and I am quite certain that they would be good Christians if only they had someone to instruct them in the holy faith.

Multitudes out here fail to become Christians only because there is nobody prepared to undertake the holy task of instructing them. I have often felt strongly moved to go to the universities of Europe, especially Paris, crying out like a madman, and say to those in the Sorbonne who have more learning than good will to employ it advantageously: "How many souls are missing heaven and going to hell through your negligence?"

If only, while they studied their humanities, they would also study the account that God will demand for the talent he has given them, many might feel the need to engage in spiritual exercises, so as to discover God's will in their hearts and embrace it rather than their own inclinations, saying: "Lord, here I am. What would you have me to do? Send me where you will, if necessary even to India."

Responsory (Lk. 10:2; Acts 1:8)

R. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

V. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses to the end of the earth. Pray. . . .

Te Deum

Concluding Prayer: as at Morning Prayer

MORNING PRAYER

Hymn

Darkness has faded, night gives way to morning;
Sleep has refreshed us, now we thank our Maker.
Singing his praises, lifting up to heaven
Hearts, minds, and voices.

Father of mercies, bless the hours before us
While there is daylight may we work to please you,
Building a city fit to be your dwelling,
Home for all nations.

Daystar of heaven, Dawn that ends our darkness,
Sun of salvation, Lord enthroned in splendor,
Stay with us, Jesus; let your Easter glory
Fill all creation.

Flame of the Spirit, fire with love's devotion
Hearts that are lukewarm, make us true apostles;
Give us a vision wide as heav'n's horizon,
Bright with your promise.

Father in heaven, guide your children homewards;
Jesus our Brother, walk beside us always;
Joy-giving Spirit, make the world one people,
Sign of God's kingdom.

Psalmody

Ant. 1: In belief in his truth God has called us through the Gospel to gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms and canticle of Sunday, Week 1.

Ant. 2: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Ant. 3: When the nations heard they rejoiced and glorified the word of God.

Scripture Reading (1 Cor. 15:1-2a, 3-4)

I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Short Responsory

R. Proclaim among the nations the glory of the Lord.
Proclaim. . . .

V. Speak of his wonders among all peoples. Glory be....
Proclaim. . . .

Benedictus Antiphon

Blessed be the Lord, who has redeemed all nations, and called all men from darkness to his wonderful light.

Intercessions: *see Appendix*

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Lord God of compassion and mercy, you opened a door to the East for Saint Francis when you sent him to preach your Gospel. Send us in our day over the face of the earth, so that the joy of our Mother, the Church, may be made perfect. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

DAYTIME PRAYER

(Psalms of the occurring weekday of the season)

Before Noon

Ant.: I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he, the just judge, is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

Scripture Reading (Rom. 1:16-17)

I am not ashamed of the Gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

V. The Lord will give the word to those who preach the Gospel.

R. With great power.

Midday

Ant.: He who has mercy teaches and instructs as does a shepherd his flock.

Scripture Reading (1 Thess. 2:2b-4)

We had courage in our God to declare to you the Gospel of God in the face of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from error or uncleanness, nor is it made with guile; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God.

V. They kept the testimonies of God

R. And his precepts.

Afternoon

Ant.: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Scripture Reading (2 Tim. 1:8b-9)

Take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus.

V. The grace of God was not wasted in me.

R. But his grace always remains in me.

(The Concluding Prayer as at Morning Prayer)

EVENING PRAYER

Hymn

King of our hearts, Christ make us kings;
Kingship with him his servants gain;
With Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.

Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
The world of time to consecrate,
The world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.

Christ's are our lips, his words we speak;
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

Psalmody

Ant. 1: I was made a minister of the Gospel according
to the gift of God's grace.

Psalm 112

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant.: I was made a minister of the Gospel according to
the gift of God's grace.

Ant. 2: I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, that I may
share in its blessings.

Psalm 83

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Sion.

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever-growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield,
he will give us his favor and glory.
The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame.

Lord, God of hosts,
happy the man who trusts in you!

Ant.: I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Ant. 3: To me this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Canticle (Eph. 1:3-10)

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us
in all wisdom and insight
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant.: To me this grace was given, to preach to the
Gentiles the unsearchable riches of God.

Scripture Reading (2 Tim. 4:4-8)

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Short Responsoy (cf. Phil. 1:21; Gal. 6:14)

R. To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. To me. . . .

V. I must glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory be. . . . To me. . . .

Magnificat Antiphon

Many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Intercessions: see Appendix

Our Father**Concluding Prayer**

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