

THE beloved disciple had just received the long-promised visit of our Lord inviting him to heaven, when the Church, under Evaristus, completed the drawing up of the itinerary for her long pilgrimage to the end of time. The blessed period of the apostolic times was definitively closed; but the eternal city continued to augment her treasure of glory. Under this pontificate the virgin Domitilla, by her martyrdom, cemented the foundations of the new Jerusalem with the blood of the Flavii, who had destroyed the old. Then Ignatius of Antioch brought to the 'Church that presides in charity,' the testimony of his death; he was the wheat of Christ, and the teeth of the wild beasts in the coliseum satisfied his desire of becoming a most pure bread.¹

Evaristus Græcus ex Judæo patre, Trajano imperatore, pontificatum gessit. Qui ecclesiarum titulos urbis Romæ presbyteris divisit, et ordinavit, ut septem diaconi episcopum custodirent, dum evangelicæ prædicationis officio fungeretur. Idem constituit ex traditione apostolica, ut matrimonium publice celebretur, et sacerdotis benedictio adhibeatur. Præfuit Ecclesiæ annos novem, menses tres, presbyteris decem et septem, diaconis duobus, episcopis quindecim, quater mense Decembri ordinatis. Martyrio coronatus, prope sepulchrum principis apostolorum in Vaticano sepultus est, septimo kalendas Novembris.

Evaristus was born in Greece, of a Jewish father, and was sovereign Pontiff during the reign of Trajan. He divided the titles of the churches of Rome among the priests, and ordained that seven deacons should attend the bishop when preaching. He also decreed that, according to the tradition of the apostles, matrimony should be celebrated publicly and blessed by a priest. He governed the Church nine years and three months. He held ordinations four times in the month of December, and ordained seventeen priests, two deacons, and fifteen bishops. He was crowned with martyrdom, and buried near the tomb of the prince of the apostles on the seventh of the Kalends of November.

Thou art the first Pontiff to whom the Church was entrusted after the departure of all those who had seen the Lord. The world could then say in all strictness: 'If we have known Christ according to the flesh, now we know Him so no longer.'¹ The Church was now more truly an exile; at that period, which was not without perils and anxieties, her Spouse gave to thee the charge of teaching her to pursue alone her path of faith and hope and love. And thou didst not betray the confidence of our Lord. Earth owes thee, on this account, a special gratitude, O Evaristus; and a special reward is doubtless thine. Watch still over Rome and the Church. Teach us that we must be ready not only to fast here on earth, but to be resigned to the absence of the Bridegroom when He hides Himself; and not the less to serve Him and love Him with our whole heart and mind and soul and strength, as long as the world endures, and He is pleased to leave us therein.

¹ 2 Cor. v. 16.

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ST EVARISTUS, Pope & Martyr

October 26

John 21: 15-17

SI DÍLIGIS me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas. *Ps.* Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me, nec delectásti inimicos meos super me. Gloria Patri.

Gregem tuum, Pastor ætérne, placátus inténde: et per beátum Evarístum Mártirem tuum atque Summum Pontíficem, perpétua protectióne custódi; quem tótius Ecclésiæ præstitisti esse pastórem. Per Dóminum.

I Peter 5: 1-4, 10-11

CARISSIMI: Seniores, qui in vobis sunt, obsecro consenior et testis Christi passionum, qui et ejus, quæ in futuro revelanda est, gloriæ communicator: pascite qui in vobis est gregem Dei, providentes non coacte, sed spontaneæ secundum Deum, neque turpis lucri gratia, sed voluntarie; neque ut dominantes in cleris, sed forma facti gregis ex animo. Et, cum apparuerit princeps pastorum, percipietis immarcescibilem gloriæ coronam. Deus autem omnis gratiæ, qui vocavit nos in æternam suam gloriam in Christo Jesu, modicum passos ipse perficiet, confirmabit solidabitque. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

INTROIT

If thou lovest Me, Simon Peter, feed My lambs; feed My sheep. *Ps.* I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT

Look forgivingly on Thy flock, Eternal Shepherd, and keep it in Thy constant protection, by the intercession of blessed Evaristus Thy Martyr and Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou didst constitute Shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord.

EPISTLE

Dear! beloved: the ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To Him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 106. 30-31

EXALTENT eum in Ecclesia plebis: et in cathedra seniorum laudent eum. Confiteantur Domino misericordiae ejus: et mirabilia ejus filiis hominum.

Matthew 16: 18

ALLELÚIA, allelúia. Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám meam. Allelúia.

Matthew 16. 13-19

IN illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaráe Philippi, et interrogábat discipulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixerunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistam, álii autem Eliám, álii vero Jeremíam, aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in Caelis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in cælis: et quodcúmque sólveris super terram, erit solútum et in Cælis.

Jeremiah 1. 9-10

ECCE dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce constitui te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllas et destruas, et aedífices et plantes.

Oblátis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclésiám tuam benígnus illúmina: ut, et gregis tui proficiat úbique succéssus, et grati fiant nómini tuo, te gubernánte, pastóres. Per Dóminum.

GRADUAL

Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to him: and his wonderful works to the children of men.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Cæsarea Philippi, and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Eliás, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven: and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.

OFFERTORY

Behold I have given My words in thy mouth: lo, I have set thee this day over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to waste and to destroy, and to build and to plant.

SECRET

We beg Thee, O Lord, through the gifts which we have offered, in Thy kindness enlighten Thy Church: so that everywhere Thy flock may prosper and her Shepherds by Thy guidance be pleasing to Thy name. Through our Lord.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd; but through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Matthew 16: 18

TU es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclésiám Meam.

COMMUNION

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

POSTCOMMUNION

Appeased by this Sacrifice, O Lord, in which Thou hast nourished Thy Church on heavenly food, do Thou so guide her that She may be steered with a firm hand and, while enjoying more liberty, may persist in wholeness of faith. Through our Lord.

Refectióne sancta enútritam guberna, quæsumus, Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclésiám: ut poténti moderatióne directa, et incrementa libertátis accípiat; et in religiónis integritáte persístat. Per Dominum.