

PREFACE OF ST BENEDICT

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere, Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus. Qui beatissimum confessorem tuum Benedictus, ducem et magistrum cælitus edoctum, innumerabili multitudini filiorum statuisti. Quem et omnia justorum spiritu repletum, et extra se raptum, luminis tui splendor collustrasti. Ut in ipsa luce visionis intimæ, mentis laxato sinu, quam angusta essent omnia inferiora, deprehenderet: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Quapropter profusis gaudiis, totus in orbe terrarum monachorum coetus exultat. Sed et supernæ virtutes, atque angelicæ potestates, hymnum gloriæ tuæ concinunt, sine fine dicentes:

*Ecclesiasticus.44. 25-26*

BENEDICTIONEM omnium gentium dedit illi Dominus, et testamentum confirmavit super caput ejus: agnovit eum in benedictionibus suis, et conservavit illi misericordiam suam.

DIVINI Sacramenti pasti deliciis, te Domine, benedictionum fons et origo, supplices exoramus: ut per intercessionem beatissimi Patris (nostri) Benedicti, benedictionis tuæ gratiam consequamur. Per Dominum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

1. "Supplement for the Order of Saint Benedict" (*Saint Andrew Daily Missal*, Brugge: Deslee de Brouwer & Co., 1957, p. 21-22).
2. The Sequence, *Lata quies*, is of even less certain origin. "It first appeared in a Benedictine Missal of the Cassinese Congregation in 1506" - Matthew Britt OSB, ed., *Gemma Cælestis* (Beatty, PA: Archabbey Press, 1926) 37.

*(The translation to the texts of Scripture is taken from the Duay-Rheims Bible. The translations were undertaken for the educational use of the faithful at Maternal Heart Mary Chapel and is only for private use.)*

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give Thee thanks, Holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: Thou provided Thy holy confessor, Benedict, as a leader and master in the spiritual life for a countless number of sons and daughters. Filled as he was with the spirit of all the just, Thou flooded him with the splendour of Thy light in a vision. In the intense radiance of this vision his mind was freed of the bonds of the earth and he was able to discern how incomplete are all things here below: Because of this, through Christ our Lord, the entire monastic company in every part of the world sings out its joy, and the Virtues on high, with the Powers of the angelic choir, continuously praise Thy glory in song, evermore saying:

COMMUNION

The Lord gave him the blessing of all nations, and confirmed his covenant upon his head: He acknowledged him in his blessings and gave him a blessing, and preserved in him His Mercy.

POSTCOMMUNION

Having partaken in the delights of Thy Divine Sacrament, as suppliants we beseech Thy blessing, O Lord, Fount and Origin: that through the intercession of our most holy father, Benedict, we may obtain the grace of Thy blessing.

PROPER of the MASS

SOLEMNITY OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST BENEDICT

March 21



*Psalm 32. 11, 19*

INTROIT

FACIAM te in gentem magnam, et benedicam tibi et magnificabo nomen tuum, erisque benedictus. Ps. 102. 1. Benedic, anima mea, Domino: et omnia quæ intra me sunt, nomini sancto ejus. V. Gloria Patri.

I shall make thee into a great nation and I shall bless thee and I shall glorify thy name and thou shalt be called blessed. Ps. Bless the Lord, O my soul: and let all that is within me bless His Holy Name. Glory be to the Father.

DEUS, qui beatissimum Confessorum tuum Benedictus, omnium justorum spiritu replere dignatus es: concede nobis famulis tuis, ejus solemnitatem celebrantibus; ut ejusdem spiritu repleti, quod, te donante, promissimus, fideliter adimpleamus. Per Dominum.

*Ecclesiasticus 48, 1-12, 49, 1-2*

ET surrexit quasi ignis, et verbum ipsius quasi facula ardebat. Et quis potest sic similiter gloriari tibi? Qui sustulisti mortuum ab inferis de sorte mortis, in verbo Domini Dei, qui audis in Sina iudicium, et ungis reges ad poenitentiam, et prophetas facis sucesores post te. Qui scriptus es in iudiciis temporum lenire iracundiam Domini, conciliare cor patris ad filium, et restituere tribus Jacob. Beati sunt qui te viderunt, et in amicitia tua decorati sunt; nam nos vita vivimus tantum, post mortem autem non erit tale nomen nostrum. Memoria enim ejus in compositionem odoris facta opus pigmentarii: in omni ore quasi mel indulcabitur ejus memoria, et ut musica in convivio vini.

*Psalms 20. 4-5*

DOMINE, pravenisti cum in benedictionibus dulcedinis: posuisti in capite ejus coronam de lapide pretioso. V. Vitam petiit a te, et tribuisti ei longitudinem dierum in saeculum saeculi.

ALLELUIA, alleluia. V. Vir Dei Benedictus omnium justorum spiritu plenus fuit: ipse intercedat pro cunctis monasticae professionis. Alleluia.

*Læta quies*

1. LÆTA quies (\*dies) magni ducis, Dona ferens novæ lucis, Hodie recolitur.
2. Caris datur piæ menti, Corde sonet in ardenti, Quidquid foris promitur.

#### COLLECT

O God, who deigned to fill Thy most blessed Confessor Benedict with the spirit of all the righteous, grant us Thy servants, who celebrate his solemnity, that filled with his spirit, we may faithfully accomplish that which we have promised. Through Our Lord.

#### EPISTLE

And he stood up, as a fire, and his word burnt like a torch. And who can glory like unto thee? Who raised up a dead man from below, from the lot of death, by word of the Lord God. Who heard judgement in Sinai. Who anointed Kings to penance and made prophets successors after thee. Who registered in the judgements in the times to appease the wrath of God, to reconcile the heart of the father to the son, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. Blessed are they that saw thee, and were honoured with thy friendship. For we live only in our life, but after death our name will not be such. The memory of him is like unto the composition of a sweet smell made by the art of the perfumer: His remembrance sweet as honey in every mouth and as music at a banquet of wine.

#### GRADUAL

O Lord, Thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. V. He asked of life of Thee and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

#### ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. V. The man of God, Benedict, was filled with the spirit of all the just: may he intercede for all in monastic profession. Alleluia.

#### SEQUENCE

1. Joyful rest [or \*day] of our leader, that brings the gift of a new light, we commemorate you today.
2. Grace is given the loving soul, may our ardent heart be united to the songs of our lips.

3. Hunc per callem orientis Admiremur ascendentis Patriarchæ speciem.
4. Amplum semen magnæ prolis Illum fecit instar solis Abrahæ persimilem.
5. Corvum cernis ministrantem, Hinc Eliam latitantem Specu nosce parvulo.
6. Elisæus dignoscatur, Cum securis revocatur De torrentis alveo.
7. Illum Joseph candor morum, Illum Jacob futurorum Mens effecit conscia.
8. Ipse memor suæ gentis, Nos perducat in manentis. Semper Christi gaudia. Amen.

*Matthew 19. 27-29*

IN illo tempore: Dixit Petrus ad Jesum: Ecce nos reliquimus omnia, et secuti sumus te: quid ergo erit nobis? Jesús autem dixit illis: Amen dico vobis, quod vos, qui secuti estis me, in regeneratione, cum sederit Filius hominis in sede majestatis suæ, sedebitis et vos super sedes duodecim, duodecim tribus Israël. Et omnis, qui reliquerit domum, vel fratres, aut sorores, aut patrem, aut matrem, aut uxorem, aut filios, aut agros propter nomen meum, centuplum accipiet, et vitam æternam possidebit.

*Psalms 1. 3*

TAMQUAM lignum, quod plantatum est secus decursus aquarum, quod fructum suum dabit in tempore suo: et folium ejus non defluet, et omnia quæcumque faciet, prosperabuntur.

SUSCIPE, omnipotens Deus, hæc sacra munera, quæ in beati Patris (nostri) Benedicti Abbatis festivitate tibi offerimus: ut sicut illi amorem tuum eximum tribuisti, ita et in nobis ejus patrocinio divinæ caritatis flammam accendas. Per Dominum.

3. By the radiant way going up to the east, let us admire our Father rising to heaven, equal to the patriarchs.
4. His innumerable posterity, figure of the sun, made him like to Abraham.
5. See the crow serving him and recognize hence Elias hiding in a little cave.
6. Recognize Eliseus, when he bids return the axe from beneath the current.
7. It is Joseph through his life without stain; it is Jacob bringing future things to mind.
8. May he be mindful of his people, and may he lead us till we behold with him the eternal joys of Christ. Amen.

#### GOSPEL

And at that time, Peter said to Jesus: Behold, we have left all things and followed Thee: what therefore shall we have? And Jesus said to them: Amen I say to you, that you and who have left all things and followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit on the seat of His Majesty, you also shall sit on twelve seats judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

#### OFFERTORY

And he shall be like a tree which is planted near the running waters, which shall bring forth fruit in due season. And his leaf shall not fall off: and all whatsoever he shall do will prosper.

#### SECRET

Receive, Almighty God, these sacred gifts which we offer to Thee on the Feast of our holy father, Benedict, Abbot: that just as Thou didst bestow Thy exceeding love upon him, so too through his advocacy mayest Thou enkindle in us the flames of divine charity.