INTROIT: Plainsong, Mode VI; PS 31:3, 4

Miseres omnium, Domine, et nihil odisti eorum quae fecisti, dissimulans peccata hominum propter poenitentiam et parcess illis: quia tu es Dominus Deus noster.

You have mercy upon all, O Lord, and hate none of the things which you have made, overlooking the sins of men for the sake of repentance, and sparing them: because you are the Lord our God.

FIRST READING: JL 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning: Render your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing. Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God. Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation. Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, “Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, “Where is their God?” Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14 and 17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always:

“Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.”

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

SECOND READING: 2 COR 5:20-6:2

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, overlookings the sins of men for the sake of repentance, and sparing them: because you are the Lord our God.

GOSPEL: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

ANTIPHONS DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Plainsong, Mode IV; JL 2: 17; ES 13: 17

Iuxta vestibulum et altare plorabant sacerdotes et levitae ministri Domini, et dicent: Parce Domine parce populo tuo, et ne disipes ora clamantium ad te, Domine.

Between the vestibule and the altar, the priests and the Levites, the ministers of the Lord, will weep and say:

“Spare your people, spare them O Lord, and do not destroy the mouth of those who call upon you.”
RESPONSORY: Plainsong, Mode II; Cf. BAR 3: 2; PS 78 : 9


Let us make amends for the sins we have committed in ignorance, lest death's day come upon us suddenly, when we might seek more time for repentance and find none. Hearken, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you. Help us, O God, our Savior, and for the glory of your name, deliver us, O Lord.

OFFERTORY: (8:30, 12:10) Plainsong, Mode IV; (7) Setting by Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725); Ps 30:2-3

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have raised me up: and not let my foes triumph over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto you: and you have healed me.

COMMUNION CHANT: Plainsong, Mode III; Ps 1:2b, 3b; with additional verses from Ps 1

Qui meditabitur in lege Domini die ad nocte, davit fructum suum in tempore suo.

He that shall meditate day and night on the law of the Lord, shall bring forth his fruit in due season.

COMMUNION MOTET (7): O Jesu Christe—Jacquet de Mantua (1483-1559)

O Jesu Christ, have mercy on me, when I languish with grief. Lord, you are my hope. unto you have I cried: have mercy on me.


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