



Milan Cathedral

SUNDAY PRECEDING THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT JOHN

Annual cycle C

Ambrosian Rite

The Dean and Chapter welcome you to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santa Maria Nascente, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Milan. The Cathedral welcomes you to the Holy Mass celebrated according to the Milanese Rite, also named Ambrosian after its main Patron, St. Ambrose (bishop of Milan from 374 to 397). This Rite has its own Calendar and the readings of this leaflet are taken from the Ambrosian Lectionary.

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore
you, we glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty
Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-
ther,

you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, re-
ceive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most
High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

2 Mc 6: 1-2. 18-28

A reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

In those days. The king sent an Athenian senator to force the Jews to abandon the laws of their ancestors and live no longer by the laws of God, also to profane the temple in Jerusalem and dedicate it to Olympian Zeus, and the one on Mount Gerizim to Zeus the Host to Strangers, as the local inhabitants were wont to be.

Eleazar, one of the foremost scribes, a man advanced in age and of noble appearance, was being forced to open his mouth to eat pork. But preferring a glorious death to a life of defilement, he went forward of his own accord to the instrument of torture, spitting out the meat as they should do who have the courage

to reject food unlawful to taste even for love of life. Those in charge of that unlawful sacrifice took the man aside, because of their long acquaintance with him, and privately urged him to bring his own provisions that he could legitimately eat, and only to pretend to eat the sacrificial meat prescribed by the king. Thus he would escape death, and be treated kindly because of his old friendship with them. But he made up his mind in a noble manner, worthy of his years, the dignity of his advanced age, the merited distinction of his gray hair, and of the admirable life he had lived from childhood. Above all loyal to the holy laws given by God, he swiftly declared, "Send me to Hades!" "At our age it would be unbecoming to make such a pretense; many of the young would think the ninety-year-old Eleazar had gone over to an alien religion. If I dissemble to gain a brief moment of life, they would be led astray by

me, while I would bring defilement and dishonor on my old age. Even if, for the time being, I avoid human punishment, I shall never, whether alive or dead, escape the hand of the Almighty. Therefore, by bravely giving up life now, I will prove myself worthy of my old age, and I will leave to the young a noble example of how to die willingly and nobly for the revered and holy laws." He spoke thus, and went immediately to the instrument of torture.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm

Ps 140 (141)

Lord, I call to you; hasten to me;
listen to my plea when I call.

Let my prayer be incense before you;
my uplifted hands an evening offering. **R**

Set a guard, Lord, before my mouth,
keep watch over the door of my lips.
Do not let my heart incline to evil,
to perform deeds in wickedness.
On the delicacies of evildoers
let me not feast. **R**

For my eyes are upon you,
o Lord, my Lord;
in you I take refuge;
do not take away my soul.
Guard me from the trap
they have set for me,
from the snares of evildoers. **R**

Second Reading (Epistle)

2 Cor 4: 17 - 5: 10

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: for this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked. For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by

life. Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel

Mt 18: 1-10

A reading of the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In that time. The disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one

through whom they come! If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into fiery Gehenna.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

In the Ambrosian Liturgy the Rite of peace comes before the offertory (presentation of the gifts), according to the teaching of Our Lord: «If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift» (Matthew 5: 23-24). The Creed follows the offertory.

The Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Pater noster

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

The Holy Church celebrates the Risen Lord. The Cathedral keeps magnificent works of art and treasures the relics of many holy bishops; we mention here only St. Carlo Borromeo (1538-1584), and the Blessed Archbishops Andrea Carlo Ferrari (1850-1921) and Alfredo Ildefonso Schuster (1880-1954).

Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano

Image: Milan, Duomo



DUOMO DI MILANO