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Notker Balbulus
The Hymnbook

The Proper of the Saints
[N.29] – [N.38]

**For the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
24th June**

[N.29] Sancti baptistae Christi

Let us celebrate the solemnity of the Holy Baptist, the Herald of Christ, and follow his example with our conduct, so that he might lead his followers on the way that he foretold!

We thy devotees beseech thee, most holy of men, friend of Jesus Christ, that we might witness the joy which Gabriel, appearing to Zachary, promised to those who celebrate thy nativity with their service, and that, through these festivities, we might obtain eternal joy, where the holy ones of God rejoice, delighting in holy pleasures.

Thee, who preparest the hearts of the faithful, lest God should find anything false or slippery in them, thee we ask, that thou shouldst be zealous to unloose our crimes and wickedness with constant prayer, so that He Himself, satisfied, might vouchsafe alway to visit His faithful and to make His dwelling in them and might desire to clothe us in the fleece of the Lamb, which thou hadst indicated with thy finger to take away the sins of the world, so that we might deserve, joined with angels, to follow Him in white garment through the most shining gate, o John, Friend of Christ!

For St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles
29th June

[N.30] Petre summe Christi

O Peter, highest shepherd of Christ, and Paul, teacher of the gentiles: May your intercession assist your Church, enlightened by your teachings, across the earth's circle!

For, o Peter, the Lord bestowed on thee the keys of heaven.

Thee, o Benjamin, Christ acknowledgeth as His armsbearer and His chosen vessel.

To the love in which He holds thee, o Peter, Christ granted it to tread with thy foot upon the sea; He made the shadow of thy body to be remedy for the sick and the weak.

Thee, o Paul, whose word is seed, Christ granteth to defeat the philosophers with His voice; thou, o Paul, didst win many victories for Christ throughout the nations.

At last, when all barbarians lie vanquished, you twain proceed to the topmost citadel, to compel the warring twins, placated now, under Christ's yoke.

There the savagery of Nero had condemned thee, o Peter and Paul, of apostles the princes, victors in so many battles, to deaths of divers sort.

Thee joineth a cross, and thee sendeth a bloody sword, to Christ.

**For St. Lawrence, Martyr
10th August**

[N.31] Laurenti David magni

O Lawrence, of great David the witness and strong soldier, Thou didst scorn the emperor's court, the bloody hands of the tormentors, following the Longed-for One and the One strong in hand, Who alone could lay low the rule of the cruel tyrant, and Whose holy love maketh those prodigal of their blood His soldiers, so long as they might look upon Him at the cost of their present life!

Thou despisest the rods of Caesar and mockest the threats of his judge.

The butcher worketh his pincers and the braaimaster his little grill in vain.

Grieveth the impious prefect of the city, defeated by a grilled fish, the food of Christ:
Rejoiceth the guest of the Master's table, with him to arise together, sated with honey.

O Lawrence, most victorious among the soldiers of David, the Eternal King: Beseech thou alway before Him pardon for His little servants, o witness and strong soldier!

**For the Assumption of Mary
15th August**

[N.32] Congaudent angelorum chori

Angelic choirs rejoice with the glorious Virgin, who, unjoined to man, did bear a Son, Who
healeth the world with His blood.

For she rejoiceth, now that she seeth Him as Prince of Heaven, to Whom once on earth, as
Virgin, she offered her breasts to suck.

How thronged with angels do we believe Mary, Jesus' mother – angels that acknowledge
themselves pledged servants of her Son!

With what glory is that Virgin worshipped in the heavens, who offered the lodging of her
most sacred body to the Lord of Heaven!

How bright in the firmament shineth the Star of the Sea, which hath borne the Light of
every star and man and spirit!

Thee, o heaven's queen, doth this wretched people celebrate with devout hearts: Thee,
together with the angels, it raiseth above the heaven with harmonious song.

Thee, o Virgin, do the books of the prophets sing; the chorus of priests calleth out for thee,
and the martyrs of Christ proclaim thee.

Thee do men and women follow, out of love for a virginal life, rivalling the heaven dwellers
in purity.

So, the whole church, worshipping thee with heart and song, doth reveal her devotion for
thee, beseeching thee, o Mary, with suppliant prayer, that thou shouldst vouchsafe to be
her help, in the presence of Christ our Lord, for ever.

For the Nativity of Mary
8th September

[N.33] Stirpe Maria regia

O Mary, thou who art born of kingly stock, who bearest Jesus our King, who art worthy of the praise of holy angels, do thou watch over us sinners that are devoted to thee!

Thou shewest the devout customs of thy fathers in thyself, but exceedest the same.

The wisdom of thy father Salomon shineth in thee, and the heart of Ezechias, upright before God, but never to be corrupted in thee.

The piety of thy father Josias hath filled thee.

Likewise hath the faith of the highest patriarch, thy father, possessed thee utterly.

But why do we count those heroes, when thy Son precedeth them all, and everyone throughout the earth?

On this day, o Virgin, do thou guard us that are gathered before thee, since thou didst appear into the world's light to bear the heavens' beacon!

**For Michaelmas Day
29th September**

[N.34] Angelorum ordo sacer

O sacred order of angels, alway delighted by God's bright face, which art nourished for ever by honey-comb that is alway sweet – that is, His praise: Commend thou the course of our life, which is steadfast never, with thy supplication to God, Who, tho' He reigneth aloft in heaven, in His kindness regardeth the depths of the earth.

**For St. Gall, Abbot & Confessor
16th October**

[N.35] Dilecte deo Galle

O Gallus, beloved of the Everlasting God – likewise to men and to the hosts of angels – who, obedient to the lofty exhortation of Jesus Christ, didst scorn a father’s estate, a mother’s embrace, the care of a wife, the play of a son, following instead, in poverty, a poor Master, and thou didst prefer the Cross to fleeting pleasures!

But Christ payeth these back a hundredfold, as this day witnesseth, when He subjecteth us all to thee, in sweet affection, to be thy sons, and hath bestowed on thee, o Gallus, gentle Swabia to be thy home; no less hath He appointed thee, joined to the choir of apostles, to sit in the heavens as judge.

Now, as suppliants, we pray thee, o Gallus, that thou shouldst ask Jesus Christ to shew favour upon us, and that thou shouldst fill the resting place of [thy] body with His peace and raise up thy suppliants with frequent prayer, that we might render thee always the honour that is thy due, o Gallus, beloved of God!

**For the Dedication of the Church
17th October**

[N.36] Psallat ecclesia mater

Let the Church, the unblemished Mother and the Virgin without crease, sing a psalm to the honour of this church!

This house proveth itself a partaker in the heavenly hall, striving in its praise and the rituals of heaven, with its undying light, after the city without shadows, and cherishing in its bosom the bodies of souls that dwell in heaven.

May the right hand of God protect her long for His praise!

Here beareth Grace a new offspring, fecund with the Holy Spirit: Here frequent Angels their citizens and Jesus is consumed as Flesh.

Fleeeth all that is harmful to the body: Perisheth every crime of the soul that is sinful.

Here soundeth forth the voice of joy: Here floweth over peace and gladness.

In this house re-echo to the Trinity praise and glory alway.

**For the Dedication of the Church
17th October**

[N.37] Tu civium deus

Thou, o God, Creator and Sanctifier of citizens for Thy heavenly kingdom, together with their dwelling places: Within this temple, consecrated to the majesty of Thy Name, do Thou, by Thy grace, sanctify the people gathered before Thee that, enlarged by Thy gift, we might deserve to become for Thee a pleasing temple, now and alway and for ever: O God, Thou Who desirest no one to perish!

**For All Hallows' Day
1st November**

[N.38] Omnes sancti seraphim

All ye holy Seraphim and Cherubim; Thrones and Dominions; Principalities, Powers and Virtues; Archangels and Angels!

Praise and honour become you, the nine orders of blessed spirits.

Ye whom love hath strengthened in the praises of God, do ye strengthen us frail men with your prayers, that, boldly conquering our spiritual vices with your aid, we might be worthy, now and for ever, to participate in your sacred rites!

Ye whom God's grace hath granted to conquer what is of earth and to become companions to the angels in heaven, ye Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Confessors, Martyrs, Religious, Virgins and the congregation of Holy Widows and All Who Please the Lord on High, we ask that your help might hold and protect us, now and alway, on this day of your joy!

Richard L. Hewitt
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