



# *Transitus* of St. Francis

National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi  
October 3

## Introductory Reading from the Testament of St. Francis

“The Lord gave to me, Brother Francis, thus to begin doing penance in this way: when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter to me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I showed mercy to them. And when I left them what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of soul and body...

“And the Lord gave such faith in churches, that I would pray with simplicity...and afterward the Lord gave me, and gives me still, such faith in the priests who live according the rite of the Holy Roman Church...because in this world I see nothing corporally of the Son of God except His most holy Body and Blood...”

“And we must honor all theologians and those who minister the most holy, divine words and respect them as those who minister to us spirit and life...”

“And after the Lord gave me some brothers...the Most High revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel...and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me.”

“And I worked with my hands, and I still desire to work.”

“...As the Lord has given me to speak and write the Rule and these words simply and plainly, may you understand them simply and without gloss and observe them with a holy activity to the end.”

Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King

First Reading from the Second Life by Thomas of Celano

As Francis was wasted by that grave illness which ended all his sufferings, he had himself placed naked on the naked ground...Placed on the ground and stripped of his sackcloth garment, he lifted up his face to heaven as usual...and said to his brothers, "I have done what is mine; may Christ teach you what is yours." He spent his time praising God, teaching his beloved companions how to praise Christ with him. As best he could, he broke out in the psalm "With my voice I cried to the Lord; with my voice I beseeched the Lord."

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\* From the Second Life by Thomas of Celano, 214, 217

## Psalm 142

*With a loud voice I cry to the Lord!  
With a loud voice I beseech the Lord,  
My complaint I pour out before him.  
Before him I lay my distress.*

*When my spirit is faint within me  
You, O Lord, know my path.  
In the way I shall walk they have hidden snares  
I have no means of escape  
There is no one who cares for my life.*

*I cry to You, O Lord, and say  
“You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living.”  
Attend to my cry, for I am indeed brought low.*

*Rescue me from those who pursue me,  
For they are stronger than I.  
Lead me forth from this prison  
That I may give thanks to Your name.  
The just shall gather around me  
Because of your goodness to me.*

*Glory be...*

Second Reading<sup>†</sup> from the Legenda Major of St. Bonaventure

In all things, Francis wished without hesitation to be conformed to Christ crucified, who hung on the cross poor, suffering, and naked. When the hour of his passing was approaching, he had all the brothers in the place called to him, and comforting them about his death with words of consolation, he exhorted them to divine love with fatherly affection. He stretched out his hands over them, crossing his arms in the form of a cross, for he always loved that sign, and he blessed all the brothers, both present and absent, in the name of the crucified. Then the beloved man of God ordered the book of the Gospels to be brought to him, and asked that the Gospel of John be read to him, from that place that begins: “Before the feast of the Passover.”

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<sup>†</sup> From the Legenda Maior of St. Bonaventure, XIV.1

Alleluia

## Gospel Reading: John 11

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,

you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.

Third Reading † from the Legenda Major of St. Bonaventure

At last, when all the mysteries were fulfilled in him and that most holy soul was released from the flesh and absorbed into the abyss of divine light, the blessed Francis fell asleep in the Lord. One his brothers saw that blessed soul under the appearance of a radiant star, carried up on a shining cloud, to enter the place of light and peace where he rests with Christ forever. Francis, the servant and friend of the Most High, the founder and leader of the Order of the Lesser Brothers, the practitioner of poverty, the model of penance, the herald of truth, the mirror of holiness, and the exemplar of Gospel perfection, the Lord made incomparably more brilliant in death, who He had made marvelously bright in life.



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† From the Legenda Maior of St. Bonaventure XIV.6 & XV.1



## Veneration of the Relics

### Blessing of St. Francis with the Relics<sup>§</sup>

O St. Francis, our brother and our father, true lamp of the world, shining more brilliantly than the sun in the Church of Christ, in your glorious goodness and great renown do not put aside care for your children.

O truly merciful and most holy Father, intercede for us together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. John the Baptist and all the saints, that we may know the blessings of God's grace and, inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we always follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you and keep you! Amen.

May He show His face to you and be merciful to you!  
Amen.

May He turn His countenance toward you and give you peace! Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you, **THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

*All depart in silence*

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<sup>§</sup> Based on I Celano, 111.