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Proper of Saints.  
Feasts of April.

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## ¶ *Saint Richard, Bishop and Confessor.*

(iij. April.)

*Prayer.*

Ⓞ God, who, through the merits  
of blessed Richard, thy  
confessor and bishop, hast made thy  
Church to shine with glorious

miracles : grant that we thy servants,  
through his intercession, may attain  
to eternal happiness. Through Jesus  
Christ.

*The rest from the Common of One Confessor and Bishop, [1019]. with ix. Lessons from the Common, if it shall happen before the Passion. If however it shall happen within the Passion, let nothing be made of the Feast. When however it shall fall within the Octave of Easter by chance : let it be deferred until the following Tuesday, and there let three Lessons be made with Rulers of the Choir. [825]. And then at Second Vespers of Saint Ambrose, let a solemn Memorial be made of Saint Richard. Prayer as above.*

¶ *Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Confessor and  
also Doctor : Double Feast.*

(iv. April.)

*Let ix. Lessons be made.*

*At Vespers.*

*Chapter.* Behold a great priest. [1019].


*Prayer.*

Ⓜ God, who didst give blessed  
Ambrose to thy people to be a  
minister of eternal salvation : grant,  
we beseech thee, that him whom we

have had as a teacher of life on earth  
we may merit to have always for an  
intercessor in heaven. Through Jesus  
Christ.

¶ *Wherever this Feast shall occur, let it be celebrated under the rule of the Annunciation of  
Blessed Mary : as is indicated in that very place.* {435}.

*First Lesson.*

 mbrose, having been born at  
Rome, and having been  
appropriately educated in  
liberal studies, in accordance with the  
nobility of his parents, was promoted  
to the consular dignity of the  
governance of the provinces of  
Liguria and Emilia. At that time in  
the city of Milan, after the death of  
Auxentius, an Arian bishop, when  
strife arose between the catholics and

the Arians concerning <his>  
replacement, Ambrose, as yet a  
catechumen, arrived there in order to  
calm them : and when he was  
addressing the people, suddenly the  
voice of an infant was heard among  
the people, Ambrose, bishop. Soon  
all, with incredible unanimous  
consent, acclaim Ambrose to be made  
bishop. But thou, O Lord, have  
mercy upon us.

*Lesson ij.*

¶ Herefore, by the order of the  
emperor, although struggling  
greatly, and toiling to escape,

Ambrose was seized, and was baptized  
on the eighth day and was ordained  
bishop with the greatest joy on the

part of all. Who immediately gave all that he could in gold and silver to the Church or to the poor. He was a venerable bishop of much abstinence and vigils : mortifying the body with daily fasting. And he was solicitous for the poor and captives : and also constant in prayer, and most valiant in fulfilling divine things. At that

time, visiting Rome, a certain paralytic had herself carried to him : and while he was praying and placing his hands on her, she touched his garments. Which, when she kissed them : immediately receiving her health, she began to walk. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Third Lesson.*

**A**T that time, when Justina the Empress, the patroness of the Arians, was inflicting many injuries on the saint : a certain impudent girl of the Arians committed an injury on a priest whom the saint had ordained. To whom the saint warned that she ought to fear the judgment of God, lest any peril might happen to her. Which saying was confirmed by the end of the event : because on the following day he escorted her dead to the sepulchre. That which was done instilled not a trifling fear in the enemy. Now when a certain man had prepared a wagon by order of the queen, that the saint of God might be abducted from the church and carried into exile, on the very day on which he thought he would kidnap him, he himself was put on the cart and was sent into exile. On a certain day, when the saint was treating of the

word of God in the church, a certain most bitter follower of the Arians saw an angel speaking in the ears of the holy bishop : as if it might indicate to him what he ought to announce to the people. Who, upon seeing this, betook himself to the catholic faith : and began to defend the one against whom he had fought. Two Arians also, when they had proposed to the saint of the Lord a discussion on the question of the Lord's incarnation, and had promised to be present on the following day to be available in order to hear : on the promised day, waiting in the holy church of God with the people, they, scorning him, went forth from the city in a carriage as if for the pleasure of a ride. Who suddenly, by the judgment of God, being thrown headlong from the carriage, thus expired. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Fourth Lesson.*

**A** certain man, when he was filled with an unclean spirit, was led to the holy man : as soon as he began to go to him he was restored to his health. Who dwelling for some time with the holy man : remained healthy from the infestation of a malignant spirit. But when he went back : the enemy soon returned to him. Who, being asked by the exorcists : confessed that he had feared to approach near to the saint of God. The fame

of his holiness and wisdom being spread far and wide : two most powerful and most wise men of the Persians, who came to him at Milan, brought with them many questions to pose to the saint of God. Who, after disputing with him for a long time through an interpreter, returned, greatly admiring his understanding. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Fifth Lesson.*

**W**hile Ambrose was abiding in Florence for a certain time, the son a certain most famous man with whom the same saint was lodged was seized by a sudden infirmity, and was taken from the present life. Whom his mother, very religious and full of faith, brought down from the upper part of the house to the lower, and put in the bed of the priest in his absence. Whom when the priest found, on returning to his bed, having considered the faith of the mother, (similar to Eliseus) laid himself upon the body of the infant : and by praying he merited that he should restore him alive to his mother whom he had found dead. Now a certain queen of the

Marcomanni, when she had heard of the fame of the saint from a certain faithful man, believed in Christ, whose servant she recognized him to be. But on a certain day when Ambrose went to the house of Macedonius, at that time the master of the offices, that he might intercede for someone : he found the doors closed by order of the above-named man, nor could he obtain permission to enter. To whom the saint said, Thou also shalt come to the church, and shalt not find the doors of the entrance open. And this indeed happened afterwards. For Macedonius, fearing his enemies, fled to the church : and approaching, he was not able to find the doors open by which

he might enter. But thou, O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

*Sixth Lesson.*

**A**T a certain time, when Ambrose was discussing the forty-third psalm, and his attendant was near at hand : suddenly a fire in the shape of a small shield covered the head of the same holy man, and little by little was seen to enter into his mouth. To be sure, afterwards his face glowed like snow. Indeed, from whence the grace of the Holy Ghost did come about him : he who hath remembered the deeds of the apostles shall undoubtedly be able to understand. Now with the solemnity of Easter drawing nigh : the holy man fell into infirmity of body. During which, lying ill on a certain day, while he was praying : he saw the Lord Jesus coming to him. At the same time, when he was about to depart from this life, from the eleventh hour of the day to that hour when he gave up the ghost, which was a little before the light of the Sabbath of Easter : he prayed with hands outstretched in the

manner of a cross. Honoratius also, a priest of the church of Vercelli, while awaiting the death of the holy man, rested in the upper part of the house : thrice he heard the voice of one calling to him, saying, Arise, hasten : for now he is about to depart. Who, descending : offered the sacraments of the Lord's Body and Blood to the holy man. Which having been taken, he breathed his last breath. On that day, when his body was placed in the church, and baptized infants were returning from the font : some said that they had seen him sitting on the tribunal. Others however indicated to their parents with a finger him ascending : many likewise related that they had seen a star above his body. This body therefore was placed in the Basilica of Ambrose on Easter Day : but his soul rejoiceth with Christ in the land of the living. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

¶ *According to Matthew. v. 13-19. Lesson vij.*



**A**T that time, Jesus said unto his disciples, Ye are the salt of the earth

: but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted ? And that which followeth.

*A Homily excerpted from divers treatises.*

**T**He Lord had foretold that his disciples would suffer persecution for the confession of his name : and that he would console them again, saying, Ye are the salt of the earth. As if he might say, They shall persecute you, but be ye not afraid, because ye shall be the salt of the earth. For by salt is designated heavenly wisdom. For salt is changed by water, and by the heat of the sun, and by the breath of the wind, from one nature into another. So also the apostles and apostolic men, through the water of baptism, and the ardour of faith, and through the breath, that

is, the gift of the Holy Ghost, have been changed from earthly to spiritual generation. For this is the nature of salt. It drieth up moisture, it removeth bad odour, it preventeth worms from being produced. So, likewise, heavenly wisdom drieth up the moisture of fleshly pleasure, removeth the stench of bad conversation, alloweth not the worms of wanton thoughts to be produced : and it extinguish that worm of which Isaiah saith, Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Eighth Lesson.*

**I**N the Old Testament no sacrifice was offered to God unless it was first seasoned with salt. Because evidently no one can offer himself a praiseworthy sacrifice to God without the taste of heavenly wisdom. Whence Paul saith, Let your speech be in the grace of God seasoned with salt. Now it is read in the Book of Kings that the waters of Jericho, being bitter and barren, Elisha, being requested to heal them, ordered a vessel to be brought to him, and he put salt into it : and he cast it in the springs of the waters, and the waters were healed. In this place salt is

understood to be the divinity of Christ : the vessel, to be sure, his humanity. Salt was put into the vessel when the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. Now after the vessel hath been cast into the springs of the waters, the waters are healed : because after Christ hath finished the mystery of his Passion, the Gentiles are healed. If, saith he, the salt hath lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted ? that is, If ye whom I have chosen for this, that the salt of the earth being thirsty shall go astray, there will not be others by whom the world shall



perceive a taste of heavenly wisdom.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon

us.

*Ninth Lesson.*

**D**E (saith the Lord) are the light of the world. The hearts of the Gentiles are tasteless and dark, as if lacking a taste of heavenly wisdom : thus also the light of true faith. But the apostles are rightly called the light of the world : because as the sun sendeth rays to drive away the darkness of the night, so the Lord hath directed the apostles to drive away the darkness of unbelief. Whence he saith elsewhere, Are there not twelve hours in the day ? Whereby he calleth himself the day, but the apostles the hours. By the world, however, into which the apostles are sent, we ought to understand men inhabiting the world. A city, he saith, that is set on a hill cannot be hid. As if he might say,

Your works cannot be hidden, which are the salt of the earth, and the light of the world, and the city situated on a mountain : but whatever ye shall do shall be made manifest to all. Let your light (saith he) so shine before men. As if he should say, Just as no one lighteth a candle and placeth it under a bushel, so therefore have I not chosen ye as my preachers, nor therefore being enkindled by the grace of the Holy Ghost, that ye might conceal the light of holy preaching, but that ye may be made manifest to all, that having been converted to the faith, they may believe and glorify your Father which is in heaven. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*R̄R̄. Chapters, and the rest from the Common of One Confessor and Bishop. [1019].*

*At Second Vespers let the R̄. Holy N. confessor of Christ. be sung. In the Common. [1042].*

*When however this Feast shall fall after Easter, let three Lessons be made from the Proper Legend of Saint Ambrose.*

*At ij. Vespers in Eastertide the R̄. O daughters of Jerusalem. In the Common. [825].*

*All the rest from the Common of One Confessor and Bishop in Eastertide. [825].*

## ¶ *Saints Tyburtius and Valerianus,* *Martyrs.*

(xiv. April.)

*Without Rulers of the Choir.*

*Prayer.*

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that we who honour the solemnity of thy holy martyrs

Tyburtius, Valerian, and Maximus may likewise imitate their virtues. Through Jesus Christ.

¶ *And it is noted that all Feasts of iij. Lessons without Rulers of the Choir from the Octave of Easter until the Octave of Pentecost : have a Double Invitatory.*

*Likewise all such Feasts which fall within the week of the Holy Trinity and which fall within the Octave of Corpus Christi : have a Double Invitatory.*

*First Lesson.*

**W**hen Valerian and Tiburtius his brother, by the preaching of blessed Cecilia, had come to believe in the Lord, and had been baptized by holy Urban the Pope, and this had come to the notice of Almachius the prefect : both brothers were ordered, if they were unwilling to sacrifice, together to suffer the capital sentence. Then the glorious martyrs, being held by Maximus the assistant, were lead to the place of the passion. Which Maximus began to weep over them,

saying, O purple flower of youth, how, at this wicked pronouncement, are you willing to relinquish the present life as if hastening to a banquet ? Tiburtius said, Unless we understood for certain the second life to be perpetual, we would never be glad to relinquish this one. Maximus said to them, If it were certain that I would be able to have for myself that of which thou speakest, I would also choose to disdain this <present> life. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Second Lesson.*

**V**alerianus said to Maximus, Seeing that thou declarest nothing to remain to thee except that thou regard what we have said to be true, in the hour when the Lord shall make us to lay aside this garment of the body, he shall open thine eyes, and shall make thee to see with how much glory that life is received. When, therefore, he had obtained from the executioners one day's respite, he lead them into his house. At the preaching of which both Maximus himself with all his house, and also the executioners believed. Then holy Cecilia came to them by

night with priests, and all were baptized. Therefore, when dawn had put an end to that night : Cecilia said, Ho ! soldiers of Christ, cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light. When, therefore, the saints had come to the place where they had been ordered to sacrifice : incense was offered to them, but they refused : refusing, they bent the knee, they were struck by the sword, they threw off the temporal body, and they received everlasting martyrdom. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Third Lesson.*

**M**aximus swore by oath, saying, I saw angels of God shining like the sun in the hour when the saints were struck by the sword : and their souls coming forth from their bodies like virgins from a marriage, which the angels receiving in their bosom with their wings flapping bore to the heavens. With Maximus telling these things with tears, many believed, and being turned from his idols he was restored to the Creator. Therefore when he had come to Almachius, insofar as Maximus the

assistant with all his household had become Christians : he commanded him to be beaten so long with leaden whips that at length he gave up the ghost. Whom holy Cecilia buried next to his fellows, the martyrs Tiburtius and Valerian whom she had buried, in a new sarcophagus, and ordered that on that sarcophagus should be sculpted a phoenix, as an indication of his faith, of which she believed the resurrection of the phoenix to be an example. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Saint Alphege, Bishop and Martyr.

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*All the rest from the Common of Many Martyrs in Eastertide. [837].*

## ¶ *Saint Alphege, Bishop and Martyr.*

(*xix. April.*)

*iiij. Lessons from the Common without Rulers of the Choir.*

*Prayer.*



God, who didst adorn blessed  
Alphege thy confessor : with  
the dignity of the priesthood and the  
palm of martyrdom : mercifully grant :

that we, being aided by his  
intercessions before thee, may be able  
to rejoice with him in eternal felicity.  
Through Jesus Christ.

*All the rest from the Common of One Martyr and Bishop in Eastertide [834]. : with  
the Chapters and Lessons of One Martyr and Bishop of other times. [940].*



## ¶ *Saint George, Martyr.*

(xxiiij. April.)

*Let iij. Lessons be made with Rulers of the Choir.*

*Prayer.*

Ⓞ O God, who dost gladden us by the merits and intercession of blessed George thy martyr : mercifully

grant that the benefits of whom we ask : we may obtain by the gift of thy grace. Through Jesus Christ.

*Lesson j.*

**S**Aint George, the true worshipper of God, was born in the country of Cappadocia : when he saw many people blaspheming Christ and worshipping demons in the presence of the impious Dacian : being armed with the banner of the Cross, and filled with the Holy Ghost, he broke forth in voice this way, All the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the

heavens. For the devil hath blinded the eyes of those who disobey, so that they might not acknowledge Christ their Maker. Hearing this : Dacian began to murmur within himself, and said unto him, By what audacity dost thou pursue this rashness, that thou not only inflictest injury upon us, but affirmest that our gods be devils ? Declare however from what province thou hast come : or by what name thou mightest be called. Saint

George said, I am a Christian and a servant of God, I am called George : by birth a Cappadocian, serving as a soldier of my country. But I have

chosen to be without temporal dignity, and to serve in the command of the immortal God. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson ij.*

**D**Acian said, Thou errest, George : approach and sacrifice to the god Apollo. Blessed George answered, I offer worship to the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of all ages, not to Apollo, the author of devils. Dacian, filled with anger, ordered holy George to be lifted up on a rack, and to be lacerated limb by limb with claws : and then torches were applied to his sides. After this he ordered him to be taken down, and to be cast out of the city, and to be stretched out for lashes, and to be tortured with diverse torments. To be sure, salt was to be sprinkled on the gashes : and his wounds to be rubbed with

haircloth. Dacian, seeing that the holy martyr could not be overcome by his punishments : ordered him to be thrust into the depths of the prison. Then he was brought out of prison to be presented to him, and he commanded the attendants to bring the brazen wheel, and to fix two-edged swords on it : and setting the martyr upon it, to release it from a height. Blessed George is thus placed on the wheel. And when it was to be rolled over, immediately it was shattered : and the saint of God remained uninjured. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson iij.*

**T**hen Dacian, being angry, ordered a bowl to be filled with lead, and, with the lead bubbling up, George to be thrown in. But George, having made the sign of the Cross before himself, refreshed himself in the cauldron as if sleeping, while the heat of the lead refreshed him by divine command. Then Dacian,

being full of the devil's blandishments, caused the blessed martyr to be brought to him, and he said, I exhort thee thus, George, to be my only-begotten son, that thou, removed from the superstition of Christianity, might be converted to the almighty gods. But with a smile the holy martyr saith, As if, contrary

to the lawful mind, detained by heavenly pleasures, one might be compelled to will what he willeth not : yet it is necessary for us to be sacrificed to the immortal God, and I wish without hesitation to fulfill whatever thou desirest. Dacian, therefore, hoping that his assertion in this case were true, leapeth up quickly, willing to kiss the blessed martyr for joy. Do not (saith George) pollute my head before we present worship to the gods. And as he was coming to the altar of the gods, and beholding Apollo, bending his knees to the earth, he prayed to Christ, saying, I beseech thee, O Almighty God, that as wax melteth from the face of fire, so these images may now melt, that all may know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, to

be the true God. This being said, a fire descended from heaven : and quickly burned up the temple together with the gods and the priests. Then Dacian, being frenzied with anger, ordered the holy martyr to be dragged as a murderer and an accused through the streets of the place. And when he was dragged to the place of punishment, with bended knees he gave thanks to God, and so suffered a capital sentence for Christ. But the almighty Lord, in the hour that the blessed martyr suffered, filled the dryness of the earth with clouds of rain. But with Dacian and his attendants hurrying to the palace, sudden fires of winds surrounded them : and in an instant they burned together. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*The rest from the Common of One Martyr in Eastertide. [825].*

*If this Feast shall fall within the Octave of Easter : let it be defferred until the morrow : and at Second Vespers of the Sunday let a solemn Memorial be made of the Feast. Let it be likewise then at j. Vespers of Saint Mark.*



## ¶ *Saint Mark, Evangelist.*

(xxv. April.)

*iiij. Lessons : Double Feast.*

*At both Vespers and at Matins and at Terce let this Chapter be said.*

*Ephes. iv. 7.*

**U**Nto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ : wherefore the

scripture saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive : and gave gifts unto men.

*Prayer.*



**G**od, who hast exalted blessed Mark thine evangelist with the grace of

evangelical preaching : grant, we beseech thee, that we may ever profit by his teaching, and be defended by his prayers. Through Jesus Christ.

¶ *At Matins let three Psalms of the Apostles be sung, according to the order of the Nocturns.*

*Lesson j.*

**B**Lessed Mark the Evangelist, departing from the parts of Egypt for Alexandria, as soon as he entered into the city, his shoe was broken apart. Comprehending this, he said, My journey is indeed completed. And he delivered his shoe to a certain cobbler, who, when he had taken hold of the shoe to mend it, severely injured his hand, and exclaimed, God is one. Blessed Mark therefore, rejoicing,

spat on the ground, and having made a paste : anointed the hand of the man, saying, In the name of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, may thy hand be healed. And straightway his hand was healed. Afterwards, to be sure, that shoemaker was baptized together with his entire family, having been taught by blessed Mark. Now that man was called Anianus. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson ij.*

**A**ND when those citizens heard him do many miracles, and all to have been converted to the true faith of Christ : they murmured, and sought to apprehend him, laying many plots against him. But blessed Mark, acknowledging their treacheries, ordained bishop Anianus there, and three priests, and seven deacons, and proceeded towards Pentapolis. And remaining there for two years, he ordained bishops and clergy : and came again to Alexandria. And when

the Gentiles learned that blessed Mark had come there, and had worked many miracles : they sought to apprehend him, saying, Great is the power of this magician. But when they continued to complain, on the very Sunday of the solemnity of Easter, they found him celebrating Mass : and, casting a rope around his neck, they dragged him, saying, Bring the wild buffalo to the place of the buffalo. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson iij.*

**N**ow holy Mark, while he was being dragged, gave thanks to God because he was regarded as worthy to suffer these things for His name. Now his flesh was running down to the ground : and the stones were stained with his blood. And when the servant of God was thrust into the prison in darkness : around the middle of the night an angel of the Lord came to him, saying, Mark, servant of God, behold, thy name is written in the Book of Life, and thy memorial shall not be forsaken for ever. But Blessed Mark, giving thanks to God, because he was comforted by His angel, said, Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech thee, receive

my spirit : and suffer me not to be separated from thee any longer. When he had said this, the Lord Jesus Christ came to him in the manner in which he had been with His disciples before He suffered : and He said to him, Peace be unto thee, my beloved Mark. And when morning was come, the persecutors threw a rope around his neck, and dragged him, saying, Drag the wild buffalo to the place of the buffalo. But he, while he was being dragged, gave thanks to God, saying, Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. And saying these things, holy Mark gave up the ghost with the palm of martyrdom, and proceeded to Christ,

who liveth and is glorified for ever  
and ever, amen. But thou, O Lord,

who liveth and is glorified for ever and ever, amen. But thou, O Lord,	have mercy upon us.
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*The rest from the Common of One Evangelist in Eastertide. [806].*

¶ *At iij.*

*Chapter. Unto every one of us. {451}.*

¶ *At vj.*

*Chapter. Ephes. iv. 10.*

**H**E that descended is the esame  
also that ascended up far above

<b>H</b> E that descended is the esame also that ascended up far above	all heavens, that he might fill all things.
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¶ *At None.*

*Chapter. Ephes. iv. 11.*

**A**ND he gave some, apostles, and  
some, prophets, and some,  
evangelists, and some, pastors and

<b>A</b> ND he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets, and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and	teachers : for the perfecting of the saints.
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*At Second Vespers.*

*Ant. Thy saints, O Lord. in the Common. [823].*

*Ps. The Lord said unto my Lord. (110./cix.) [375]. and the other Psalms of the  
Apostles.*

*Chapter. Unto every one of us. as above. {451}.*

*R̄. Her Nazarites. in the Common. [807].*

*Prayer as above. {451}.*

¶ *If this Feast shall fall within the week of Easter : let it be deferred until after the  
Octave of Easter, and let it be celebrated where it can be conveniently celebrated, and  
where it may be able to have both Vespers and it shall be thus for all Double Feasts falling  
in that season. Of the Fast to be sure then, nor of Procession which usually takes place on  
that day : let nothing be made after nor before in that year : nor indeed if this Feast shall  
fall on any Sunday after the Octave of Easter, but then let the Feast not be deferred :  
rather let the whole service be made of the Feast : with a solemn Memorial of the Sunday*

Saint Vitalis, Martyr.

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*: and afterwards of the Resurrection, with a Procession before the Cross at Vespers on Saturday in the usual way, however nothing is made of the Fast and of the Procession that usually takes place after the Mass of Saint Mark in that year.*

*But on whatever feria after the Octave of Easter this Feast shall fall : let the Fast and the Procession be made in the usual way.*

## ¶ *Saint Vitalis, Martyris.*

(xxviiij. April.)

*Let iij. Lessons be made with Rulers of the Choir.*


*Prayer.*

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that at the intercession of blessed Vitalis thy martyr : we may be

defended from all adversities in body, and cleansed from evil thoughts in mind. Through Jesus Christ.


## ¶ *At Matins.*

*First Lesson.*

aint Vitalis, of consular rank, father of Saints Gervase and Prothase, with his judge Paulinus, entered into Ravenna. Now it happened there that a certain Christian, Ursicinus by name, a physician by profession, after excessive tortures received a capital sentence. Who while he was being led to be beheaded : became frightened. And when he wished to escape the the evils : Vitalis cried out, saying, Do not, O Ursicinus, physician, who are wont to heal others, do not wound thyself with a

javelin of eternal death. And thou, who through great sufferings hast come to the palm, do not lose the crown prepared for thee by the Lord. Hearing these things, therefore, Ursicinus laid down his knee : and urged the executioner that he might smite him, giving repentance, in so far as he had become frightened. And immediately Vitalis took away the body of the martyr : and buried it with great honour within the city of Ravenna. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson ij.*

ow after this Vitalis was unwilling to go any longer with his judge : whom Paulinus the consul therefore ordered to be held, not only because he had disdained to

return to him, but as much because he was discovered to be a Christian, that, even willing to sacrifice to regain the crown of martyrdom, persevered so that he would not give up, and

Saint Vitalis, Martyr.

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might return to God the precious jewel which the devil was trying to seize. Paulinus therefore ordered him to be lifted up on the rack, that through torture he might be in agreement to incline to the sacrifice.

To whom Vitalis said, Infinite folly is master over thee, so that thou mayest think to deceive myself, who hast striven to deliver others from the danger of deception. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Lesson iij.*

**P**Aulinus the consul, therefore, said to his officers, Take Vitalis to the palm tree. And if he shall despise to sacrifice : do not behead him, but dig a pit in the earth until ye come to water, and there lay him on his back : and, burying him with earth and stones, abandon him. When that had been accomplished : God consecrated to himself the blessed martyr Vitalis. But the priest of Apollo who had given this counsel to Paulinus, being seized by the devil,

for seven days being possessed by a demon, cried out there, where holy Vitalis had been buried, Thou burnest me : thou tormentest me, O martyr of Christ. After seven days, having been cast into the river by the devil, he expired. But Saint Vitalis, the glorious martyr of Christ, resteth in the city of Ravenna : giving by his prayers favours to all believers even to thee present day. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

*The rest from the Common of One Martyr in Eastertide. [825].*

¶ *The Deposition of Saint Erkenwald,  
Bishop and Confessor, Synod of London.*

(xxx. April.)

*Three Lessons with Rulers of the Choir, with Prayer and Lessons from the Proper which may be found after the Translation of the same in November the xiv. day before the Feast of Saint Machutus. {XX}.*