

## FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

VIGIL: Evening Prayer, October 3

**Ant. "Come let us adore Christ the King who exalts the humble"**

Francis was born in Assisi in the year 1182. After spending his youth in frivolity, he repented, renounced his inheritance, and turned wholeheartedly to God. He embraced poverty, lived a life according to the Gospel and preached to all the love of God. He trained his followers with excellent precepts approved by the Apostolic See. He also founded an Order of Nuns, and an Order of penance for people living in the world, and devoted himself to preaching to unbelievers. He died in the year 1226.

### PSALMODY

**Ant. 1** Francis a thoroughly Catholic and apostolic man was sent to prepare the way for the Gospel of peace.

**I thank the Lord with all my heart  
In the meeting of the just and their assembly.  
Great are the works of the Lord;  
To be pondered by all who love them.**

Majestic and glorious his work,  
His justice stands firm for ever.  
He makes us remember his wonders.  
The Lord is compassion and love.

**He gives food to those who fear him;  
Keeps his covenant ever in mind.  
He has shown his might to his people  
By giving them the land of the nations.**

His works are justice and truth:  
His precepts are all of them sure,  
Standing firm for ever and ever:  
They are made in uprightness and truth.

**He has sent deliverance to his people  
And established his covenant forever.  
Holy his name, to be feared.**



To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;

All who do so prove themselves wise.

His praise shall last forever!

**Ant. 2** During his life time he supported the house of God and in his days he strengthened the temple.

**O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

**Zion, praise your God!**

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,

He has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,

He feeds you with finest wheat.

**He sends out his word to the earth**

**And swiftly runs his command.**

**He showers down snow white as wool,**

**He scatters hoar-frost like ashes.**

He hurls hailstones like crumbs.

The waters are frozen at his touch;

He sends forth his word and it melts them:

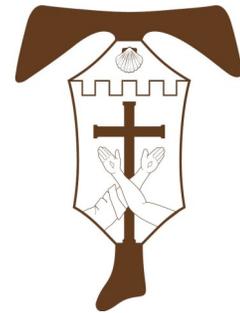
At the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

**He makes his word known to Jacob,**

**To Israel his laws and decrees.**

**He has dealt thus with other nations;**

**He has not taught them his decrees.**



**Ant. 3** Lead fourth my soul from prison; the just wait for me until you reward me.

**With all my voice I cry to the Lord,**

**With all my voice I entreat the Lord.**

**I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress  
While my spirit faints within me.  
But you , O Lord, know my path.**

On the way where I shall walk  
They have hidden a snare to entrap me.  
Look on my right and see:  
There is not one who takes my part.  
I have no means of escape,  
Not one who cares for my soul.

**I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge,  
All I have left in the land of the living."  
Listen then to my cry  
For I am in the depths of distress.**

Rescue me from those who pursue me  
For they are stronger than I.  
Bring my soul out of this prison  
And then I shall praise your name.  
Around me the just will assemble  
Because of your goodness to me.



## **READING**

## **ROMANS 8:10-11**

If Christ is in you the body is dead because of sin, while the spirit lives because of justice. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will bring your mortal bodies to life also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

RESPONSORY:

**Francis poor and humble**

Enters heaven rich in merit.

**He is honored with hymns in heaven.**

He enters heaven rich in merit.

**Glory to the Father...**

Francis poor and humble enters heaven rich in merit.

**CANTICLE OF MARY**

**ANT.** By his complete submission to his Creator Francis gained command over creatures and made use of them to praise the Creator.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

**He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.**

Glory to the Father...

Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Our Father....

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Father, you helped our seraphic father Francis reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi and by imitating his joyful love.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen.