

**February 8**  
**SOLEMNITY OF**  
**SAINT JEROME EMILIANI**

**ENTRANCE**

*“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belong to such as these,” says the Lord.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of mercy,  
you chose Jerome Emiliani  
to be a father and a friend of orphans.  
May his prayers keep us faithful  
to the spirit we have received,  
who makes us your children.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Merciful Father,  
you have engraved in St. Jerome  
the image of the new man,  
created in justice and holiness.  
Renew also our spirit,  
that we may become worthy  
of offering you this sacrifice of praise.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

**Priest :** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest :** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest :** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right and just.

Father, all powerful and ever living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Truly you are good and the source  
of every good.

You looked upon Jerome, your servant,  
and you renewed him

through the help of the Virgin Mother.

You gave him the tenderness of your love  
so that, in the name of your Son,

he could welcome the orphans and the poor,  
and he could show the goodness

of our Savior, who welcomed, embraced,  
and blessed the children,

and proclaimed the gospel  
of salvation to the poor.

Filled with joy for these signs of love,  
with all the angels and the saints,  
we sing the unending hymn of praise.

*Holy, holy, holy...*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself undefiled from the world make for pure worship before our God and father (Jer 1:27)*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Father,

today we have tasted the sweetness  
of the bread of life.

As we celebrate the feast of St. Jerome with joy,  
grant that we may imitate his example,  
progress in the way of love,  
and receive your blessing  
in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Jerome loved the Crucified Christ  
by serving the poor.

### ENTRANCE

*The orphan and the widow who belong to your community may come and eat their fill, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all you undertake (Dt 14:29).*

### PRAYER

O Father, you converted and renewed  
your servant Jerome.  
Make us share in his desire to follow  
the Crucified Christ,  
so that we may express our love for you,  
in the holiness of our lives  
and in the works of mercy.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
forever and ever. Amen

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, accept the gifts we present to your altar,  
as you accepted the life of Saint Jerome,  
consumed as pure gift of love for you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

**Priest :** The Lord be with you.

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**Priest :** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest :** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right and just.

It is truly a right and good thing  
to give you thanks, O Father of infinite mercy,  
for all that you have done  
for your servant Jerome.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, with great love  
he assisted the little ones and the poor.  
In order to lead all of them to the good way,  
he became the most despised  
and humble among them.  
As a shining lamp, with his example  
he enlightened and drew many  
to join him in following Christ and serving you.

Comforted by the witness  
of this servant of yours,  
with the blessed multitude of heaven,  
joyfully we sing the song of praise.

*Holy, holy, holy...*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*"I will not leave you orphans: I will come to you," says the Lord (Jn 14:18).*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthened by your heavenly food,  
we ask you, O Father:  
make us as intimately united to Christ  
as Saint Jerome was,  
so that we may build your kingdom  
of freedom and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saint Jerome put all his trust and hope  
in the Lord.

### ENTRANCE

*Sing to God, praise the divine name. Father of the orphans, defender of the widows is God in his holy dwelling. He gives a home to the forsaken, he leads out the prisoners with joy (Ps 68:5-7).*

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, loving Father, in Saint Jerome you wanted to come close to  
the suffering

of the little ones and the poor.

Make us strong and steadfast in trials

so that we may be numbered

among your children who put their trust

and hope only in you.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,

your Son, who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look with kindness, O Father,

upon the gifts we bring to your altar

in the memory of Saint Jerome.

May our offering to Christ

in serving the poor

be resplendent of love and humility of heart,

as well as of meekness and goodness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE

**Priest :** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest :** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest :** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right and just.

It is truly right and good  
to give you thanks and raise the hymn  
of blessing and praise,  
all powerful and ever living God.

You have chosen your servant Jerome  
as a sign to the human kind  
as a way that leads to you.  
For the sake of the Gospel, he left everything  
and, after having embraced your Crucified Son,  
he lifted up out of misery the little ones  
whom he welcomed with tenderness  
and cured with his own hands.

Grateful for this gift of your love,  
we join the angels and the saints  
in singing to you, O Father,  
the hymn of praise.

*Holy, holy, holy...*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me (Mk 9:37).*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Comforted and strengthened  
by this spiritual food,  
help us, O dear Father,  
that we may persevere to the end  
in work, devotion, and love,  
so that, after our trials, we may have peace  
in this world  
and eternal life in the next.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saint Jerome, Universal Patron Saint  
of Orphans and Abandoned Youth (March 14).

**ENTRANCE**

*Praise the Lord, my soul; the Lord protect the stranger, sustains the orphan  
and the widow; he is faithful forever (cfr Ps 146).*

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, dear Father, in Saint Jerome  
you have accomplished great things.  
Grant also to us the spirit of holiness  
that made him father of the orphans  
and refuge of the poor.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Look with kindness, O Father,  
upon the gifts we present to your altar.  
Accept as a spiritual sacrifice also us  
who celebrate the wonderful work  
you have accomplished in Saint Jerome.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE

**Priest :** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest :** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest :** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right and just.

It is truly right and good  
to exalt you, Father of infinite mercy.  
In order to help the orphans and the abandoned,  
you raised Saint Jerome in the Church.

Renewed through the intercession  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
he followed the way of the Crucified Jesus  
by becoming poor and serving the poor.  
In this blessed servant of yours,  
the Church points out to the world  
your tender fatherly heart  
which embraces the universal suffering  
and comes to the help of the weakness  
of the least of your children.

Joyful and grateful for this great gift,  
with the choir of heaven  
we sing the unending hymn of praise.

*Holy, holy, holy...*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations (Gn 17:4).*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, you have nourished us  
at your table.

Help us to grow in the love for you  
by imitating with zeal the virtues  
of Saint Jerome, so that we may continue  
in the world his Christian witness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah  
(Is 58:7-11)

Thus says the Lord:

“Share your bread with the hungry,  
shelter the oppressed and the homeless;  
cloth the naked when you see them,  
and do not turn your back on your own.  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your wound shall quickly be healed;  
your vindication shall go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord  
shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer,  
you shall cry for help, and he will say:  
Here I am!

If you remove from your midst oppression,  
false accusation and malicious speech;  
if you bestow your bread on the hungry  
and satisfy the afflicted;  
then light shall rise for you in the darkness,  
and the gloom shall become for you like midday;  
then the Lord will guide you always  
and give you plenty even on the parched land.  
He will renew your strength,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring whose water never fails.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (from Ps 112)

R/. God loves the cheerful giver.

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who greatly delights in his commands.  
His prosperity shall be mighty upon the earth;  
the upright generation shall be blessed. R/.

He dawns through the darkness,  
a light for the upright;  
he is gracious and merciful and just.  
Well for the man who is gracious and lends;  
he shall never be moved. R/.

The just man shall be  
in everlasting remembrance.  
An evil report he shall not fear;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.  
His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear. R/.

Lavishly he gives to the poor;  
his generosity shall endure for ever;  
his horn shall be exalted in glory. R/.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (*Eph 3:14-19*)

Brothers and sisters, for this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The word of the Lord

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**R/.** Alleluia. Alleluia.

Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me.

**R/.** Alleluia. Alleluia.

**During Lent, instead of Alleluia, say:**

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (*Mat 19:13-21*)

Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After, he placed his hands on them and went away.

Now, someone approached him and said, "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?" He answered to him, "Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He asked him, "Which ones?" And Jesus replied, "You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and mother; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then, come and follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## INTERCESSIONS

With joy let us celebrate the Lord Jesus, our Savior, who has filled Saint Jerome with his gifts, and let us address to him our humble petitions.

Let us say together: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.*

Our sweet Lord, you have loved us and gave up yourself for us; in your goodness grant us your mercy, let us pray.

Our sweet Lord, you have lavished your love on Saint Jerome; help us to be united in you with all our heart, let us pray.

Our sweet Lord, you have called us with the power of the Holy Spirit; make us faithful to your love and make us remain forever with you, let us pray.

Our sweet Lord, you have come not to be served but to serve; help us that we may dedicate our lives in serving you in our brothers and sisters, let us pray.

Our sweet Lord, in your childhood you experienced persecution and exile; guard the little ones who suffer because of poverty, of war or any kind of troubles, let us pray.

O God, you have raised Saint Jerome in the Church in order to point out the way of salvation to the poor. On his example, may we reach with our brothers and sisters the glory of Christ, our Lord and Master, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.