

FRIDAY AUGUST 7

Ferial

Roman Missal 470; Lectionary 411
or **Saint Sixtus II and Companions**
or **Saint Cajetan**

Saint Sixtus and several of his deacons were put to death in a catacomb where they celebrated Mass. See p. 171.

In 1524, Saint Cajetan formed a society of clerks regular called the Theatines. See p. 171.

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 84) **The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his holy ones and to those who turn to him.**

Collect

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. 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.**

Reading

(Nabum 1.15c; 2.2; 3.1-3, 6-7)

Look! On the mountains are the feet of one who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, fulfill your vows, for never again shall the wicked invade you; they are utterly cut off.

For the Lord is restoring the majesty of Jacob, as well as the majesty of Israel, though ravagers have ravaged them and ruined their branches.

Ah! City of bloodshed, utterly deceitful, full of booty — no end to the plunder! The crack of whip and rumble of wheel, galloping horse and

bounding chariot! Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, piles of dead, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end — they stumble over the bodies!

I will throw filth at you and treat you with contempt, and make you a spectacle. Then all who see you will shrink from you and say, “Nineveh is devastated; who will bemoan her?” Where shall I seek comforters for you?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Canticle ———
(Deuteronomy 32)

R. **It is I who deal death and give life.**

The day of their calamity is at hand, their doom comes swiftly. Indeed the Lord will vindicate his people, have compassion on his servants. **R.**

See now that I, even I, am he; there is no god besides me. I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal. **R.**

When I whet my flashing sword, and my hand takes hold

on judgment; I will take vengeance on my adversaries, and will repay those who hate me. **R.**

Acclamation (Matthew 5)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice’s sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ———
(Matthew 16.24-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what

has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the sacred offerings which at your bidding we dedicate to your name and, in order that through these gifts we may become worthy of your love, grant us unflinching obedience to your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 116) **O praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love towards us is great.**

or

(Mt 28) **Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God, that those to whom you give the joy of participating in divine mysteries may never be parted from you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Do not receive Christ in the Blessed Sacrament so that you may use him as you judge best, but give yourself to him and let him receive you in this Sacrament, so that he himself, God your Saviour, may do to you and through you whatever he wills. —St. Cajetan