Ps. 32. God, the Lord of the world. This psalm portrays God as the Good Shepherd over nature, over the affairs of men and especially over His adopted children. We may here meditate on God’s Providence in the order of nature and in the order of grace.

Ps. 32: 18-19

Ego clamavi, quoniam exaudisti me. Ps 16: 6. 8

1. O Godhead hid, devoutly I adore Thee,
   Who truly art within the forms before me;  
   To Thee my heart I bow with bended knee,
   As failing quite in contemplating Thee.

5. O Thou, memorial of our Lord’s own dying!
   O living bread, to mortals life supplying!
   Make Thou my soul henceforth on Thee to live;
   Ever a taste of heavenly sweetness give.

6. O loving Pelican! O Jesus Lord!
   Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Thy Blood:
   Of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
   Can purge the entire world from all its guilt.

The Pelican in Her Piety

In Christian art the “Pelican wounding herself” or the “Pelican in her piety” — a mother bird with her sharp beak cutting into her own flesh to feed her young with her blood — is a symbol of Jesus Christ shedding his Precious Blood for the redemption of God’s adopted sons and daughters, and a symbol of his Catholic Church distributing the graces of his redemption in the Mass and Sacraments; nourishing the members of his Mystical Body with the fullness of his Truth. Saint Thomas Aquinas made use of this symbolism in his beautiful hymn, Adoro te devote.

Adoro te devote, latens Deitas,
Quae sub his figuris vere latitas ;
Tibi se cor meum totum subjicit,
Quia te contemplans, totum deficit.

O memoriale mortis Domini,
Panis vivus vitam praestans homini :
Præsta meæ menti de te vivere,
Et te illi semper dulce sapere.

Pie pellicane Jesu Domine,
Me immundum munda tuo Sanguine :
Cujus una stilla salvum facere
Totum mundum quit ab omni scelere.

O Godhead hid, devoutly I adore Thee,
   Who truly art within the forms before me;  
   To Thee my heart I bow with bended knee,
   As failing quite in contemplating Thee.

O Thou, memorial of our Lord’s own dying!
   O living bread, to mortals life supplying!
   Make Thou my soul henceforth on Thee to live;
   Ever a taste of heavenly sweetness give.

O loving Pelican! O Jesus Lord!
   Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Thy Blood:
   Of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
   Can purge the entire world from all its guilt.
Ps 39. Thanksgiving and plea for help. This psalm is mainly a prayer of thanksgiving. The psalmist expresses his thanks for being privileged to offer God the sacrifice of his will. According to the Epistle to the Hebrews (10:5) this psalm is the morning prayer to the life of Jesus Christ. On Good Friday the Church turns it into His death prayer: in place of sacrificial victims, our Lord offers up Himself to the Father for all men. From the wood of the crib to the wood of the Cross, Christ proclaims that all his life is a constant submission to the Father’s will. The fulfilment of God’s will must also be the substance of our life. That is the theme of every Holy Mass.

Sacrifice and oblation thou wouldest not: but a body thou hast fitted to me. (Heb 10:5).

Ecce venio, Domine, ut faciam voluntatem tuam.

HERE I am Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or oblation thou wouldest not, but ears open to obedience:Entered you gave me. Burnt offerings or sin offerings you sought not; then said I, “Be-hold I come.”

“In the written scroll it is pre-scribed for me, To do your will, O my God, is my de-light, and your law is with me in my heart!”

I an-nounced your jus-tice in the vast as-sem-bly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.

May all who seek you exult and be glad in you, And may those who love your sal-sa-tion say ever, “The Lord be glo-ri-fied.”

Psalm 39

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 39

Psalm 39

Ps 15. The Lord is my portion, my inheritance. In this psalm we give thanks for the gift of faith and of grace. Other men may have kingdoms, but we possess God, the highest good. It is he who has given me my blessed calling. He will not suffer his holy one to see corruption: this beautiful Messianic verse foretelling the Resurrection of Christ may well be applied to our own hope in the Resurrection of the body.

The Father raised Jesus from the dead and broke the bonds of death. (Acts 2:24).

Dominus pars hereditatis meae est.

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON

Psalm 15

Here is the portion of my inheritance.

Verse. Sung by the Cantors

El mis-mo Se-ñor es mi re-com-pen-sa.

HE mys-ter-y of faith. We proclaim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-su-rec-tion un-ti you come a-gain.