

# Saint Gertrude Virgin

**November 16  
Memorial**

## **Biographical profile**

Gertrude of Helfta (Eisleben, Alemannia, 1256 – Helfta, november 17, 1302), called “the Great”, entered the Cistercian monastery of Helfta. A woman of profound culture, even profane, she nourished her spiritual life in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist, in Scripture and in the Fathers. She had a high mystical experience, characterised by the living sense of freedom of the children of God and a tender devotion to the humanity of Christ. He was a precursor of worship of the Heart of Jesus. Our founder, Father Dehon, wrote: «**Jesus was pleased with the heart of Saint Gertrude, because he found there the same feelings of love, fidelity, compassion and dedication that he had experienced in his friends in Bethlehem and Nazareth, Bethany and the Upper Room, Gethsemane and Calvary**» (DSP 1936, 443).

## **Liturgy**

**SAINT GERTRUDE – SCJ MEMORIAL**

**White**

### **Eucharist**

MISSAL: Common of Virgins (for one virgin), except the collect, which is proper to the memorial.

LECTIONARY: mass of the day.

**Liturgy of the hours:** Common of Virgins, except the prayer, which is replaced with the collect from the Mass. In the office of readings, the second reading and short responsory are proper to the memorial.

## Eucharist

### Entrance Antiphon

Here is a wise virgin, from among the number of the prudent,  
who went forth with lighted lamp to meet Christ.

### COLLECT

God, who prepared a delightful dwelling for yourself  
in the heart of the Virgin Saint Gertrude,  
graciously bring light, through her intercession,  
to the darkness of our hearts,  
that we may joyfully experience you present and at work within us.  
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.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Through the intercession of Saint Gertrude and the holy virgins who followed  
Christ with undivided hearts, we beseech the Lord to grant us the grace to live in  
holiness: *Give us, Lord, a new heart and spirit.*

- May pastors and members of the Christian community faithfully express the abundant  
fruitfulness of the spirit through holy doctrine and the sacraments, Let us pray:
- May young people feel the desire for holiness and renewal of spirit to become bearers  
of hope, Let us pray:
- May those incapacitated, sick and suffering in pain experience union with Christ, the  
doctor of bodies and souls. Let us pray:
- May the Lord continue to call forth the vocation of consecrated virginity as a sign of  
proclamation and prophecy of the kingdom of heaven. Let us pray:
- May all the members of the People of God be faithful to our Baptismal commitment  
by rejecting evil and doing works of charity, in imitation of Christ . Let us pray:

Holy Father, look upon your church into whose hands you have entrusted the  
Gospel of your Son. May it never lack the signs and fruits of holiness, so that it  
may proclaim with the power of the Spirit the word that enlightens and saves.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we proclaim your wonders, O Lord,  
in the Virgin blessed Gertrude,  
we humbly implore your majesty  
that, as her merits are pleasing to you,  
so, too, our dutiful service may find favor in your sight.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### PREFACE OF HOLY VIRGINS AND RELIGIOUS

*The sign of a life consecrated to God*

**V./** The Lord be with you.

**R./** And with your spirit.

**V./** Lift up your hearts.

**R./** We lift them up to the Lord.

**V./** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R./** It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father,  
almighty and eternal God.

For in the Saints who consecrated themselves to Christ  
for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven,  
it is right to celebrate the wonders of your providence,  
by which you call human nature back to its original holiness  
and bring it to experience on this earth  
the gifts you promise in the new world to come.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy...

Communion Antiphon

cfr Mt 25,6

Behold, the Bridegroom is coming;  
come out to meet Christ the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by partaking of this divine gift,  
we pray, O Lord our God,  
that by the example of the blessed Gertrude,  
bearing in our body the Death of Jesus,  
we may strive to hold fast to you alone.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## **Prayers (for Adoration)**

### **UNION WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST**

Hail, Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
living and strengthening source of eternal life,  
infinite treasury of the Divinity,  
and burning furnace of divine love!  
You are my refuge and sanctuary.  
My loving Savior,  
consume my heart in that burning love  
with which your own heart is inflamed.  
Pour out upon me those graces  
which flow from your love.  
Let my heart be so united with yours  
that our wills may be one,  
and my will may in all things be conformed  
with your will.  
May your will be the guide and rule  
of my desires and my actions.

Amen.

(St. Gertrude of Helfta, 1256 - ca. 1301)