145 Ant (*Formica*)

The ant helps its companions.[[1]](#endnote-1) Behold its charity. It arouses, strives. Behold foreseeing diligence. It stores away against the future winter. Behold prudence. It cuts off the acquired grains lest they germinate or rot. In the time of rainy weather, it hides the grains which it exposes to the sun in the time of clear weather. It carries a weight greater than its own.[[2]](#endnote-2) Behold compassion. Prov. 6[:6-8]: “Go to the ant, O sluggard … and learn wisdom. Which, although she has no guide, nor master, nor captain, provides her meat for herself in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.”

1. William de Lancea, *Diaeta Salutis* 5.5 (8:300b): Socios adjuvat: in quo laudatur charitas. Sollicita est: in quo laudatur prudentia. ... Grana detruncat, ne germinent, vel putrescant. Tempore imbris grans abscondit: in quo docetur fuga tentationis. Tempore sereno granum soli exponit: in quo laudatur virtus orationis. Pondus portat majus quam ipsa sit: in quo monstratur zelus compassionis. De ipsa dicitur proverbium: *O piger, vade ad formicam, et disce sapientiam, quae cum non habet ducem, nec praeceptorem, nec principem, parat in aestate, et congregat in messe cibum sibi*, scilicet in messe gratiae, cibum gloriae sempiternae. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Cf. Isidore, *Etymologiae* 12.3.9 (PL 82:441): 9. Formica dicta, eo quod ferat micas farris, cujus solertia multa. Providet enim in futurum, et praeparat aestate quod hieme comedat. In messe autem elegit triticum, hordeum non tangit. Dum pluit ei super frumentum, totum ejicit. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)