

January 11

Saint THEODOSIUS, Abbot

Optional memorial

Saint Theodosius (423-529), a native of Cappadocia, came to the Holy Land and lived for some time in a monastery located between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He then retired to the desert of Judea and lived as a hermit for forty years. His reputation for holiness attracted many disciples to him. He founded a large monastery that bears his name (Deir Dosi, 7 km south of Bethlehem), where all visitors were welcomed with love. He suffered much for his loyalty to the Council of Chalcedon, but neither the threats of the Emperor Anastasius nor even exile shook his faith. He died in 529, at the age of 105, and was buried in his monastery.

Saint Theodosius had a sense of the unity of the Church, a unity that respects diversity. His monastery being opened to all, he wanted the praise of God to be sung in different languages, everyone expressing his own heart.

Today's liturgy evokes the unity of the living body of the Church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

John 10: 14-16

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

COLLECT

All powerful and everlasting God, you are the light of the lost and pastor of the sheep. In defending the Catholic faith, you granted to Saint Theodosius abbot to fear neither threats nor death itself. Through his intercession, grant to your faithful that they be united together in one and the same love. Through Jesus Christ ...

FIRST READING

Striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace

A reading from the letter of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians 4: 1-6

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 100: 1-5. (R. 3c)

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Serve the LORD with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.

2. Know that he, the LORD, is God.  
He made us; we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

3. Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with songs of praise.  
Give thanks to him, and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION                      John 10: 27

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.  
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL  
I have other sheep; these also I must lead. There will be one flock.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John                      10: 11. 14-16

So Jesus said again, "... I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.  
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd".  
The Word of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

In your goodness, O Lord, sanctify these gifts, and grant that following the example of Blessed Theodosius and through his intercession, we may offer ourselves with Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns... .

COMMUNION ANTIPHON                      cf 1 Cor 10: 17

Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may the sacraments we have received in memory of St. Theodosius help us grow in fraternal love and strengthen our faith. Through Christ ...