

May 17th

All Holy Bishops of Jerusalem

Memorial

On this day we commemorate all the bishops of Jerusalem that are not celebrated by name, including:

ZACCHAEUS: (112-119) fourth bishop, of Jewish origin.

MATTIAS: (+124) eighth bishop, of Jewish origin.

MARK : (+ 156) first bishop of Gentile origin, after the destruction of the Holy City by Hadrian in 135.

NARCISSUS: who governed the Church of Jerusalem under Commodus and died in 214 at the age of 120 years.

ALEXANDER: who succeeded Narcissus as head of the Jerusalem church. He ordained his friend Origen to the priesthood and died during the persecution of Decius in 250.

ZAMBIDAS: elected bishop in 300, according to Eusebius, and died in 302, 37th bishop of Jerusalem.

MACARIUS: A tireless advocate of truth at the Council of Nicaea, who entertained St. Helen in Jerusalem during her pilgrimage of 325-327. It was during his episcopate that Constantine the Great built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He died in 348.

ELIAS: Of Arab origin, he spent some time among the monks of Egypt. Appointed Patriarch, he built a monastery near the Holy Sepulchre ; the monks from there were dedicated to the sacred offices of the basilica. He was later exiled to Aqaba, where he died in 518.

MODESTUS: Patriarch of Jerusalem, he restored the basilicas which were devastated during the Persian invasion in 614. He died in 630.

The Church of Jerusalem has a rich heritage of the witness offered by a great number of saints who include several of its bishops.

Today we express our gratitude to God for his special protection towards the Holy City and our trust in Him, because we know that the roots of the Church are holy and that the Lord continues to guide her. We pray for our bishops, that they may encourage us by their example, enlighten us by their teaching and never cease to strengthen our faith.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Jer 3: 15

I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently.

COLLECT

Lord, you filled with the Spirit of truth and love the holy bishops of Jerusalem, so they could watch over your people. Grant us, by their intercession, to be united with our pastors in the bond of charity and sincere obedience, and thus deserve to pass over with them from the earthly Jerusalem to that of heaven. Through Jesus Christ ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah 61: 1-3a. 6a. 8b-9

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn; to place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes, To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.

You yourselves shall be named priests of the LORD, ministers of our God you shall be called.

I will give them their recompense faithfully, a lasting covenant I will make with them.

Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them as a race the LORD has blessed.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23, 1-3a. 3b-4. 6 (R. 1)

R. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

2. He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear,
for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

3. You have prepared a table before me
my cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10: 14

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to saint John

10: 11-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern 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 7 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 Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of your people offered for your glory, in honour of the holy bishops; may it gain for us eternal salvation.

Through Christ our Lord...

PREFACE

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, through Christ our Lord.

For through the wondrous witness of faith of your Saints you ever enrich your Church in Jerusalem with new strength, and in them you give us sure signs of your love. We give you thanks because their example encourages us and their ceaseless intercession helps us live the mystery of death and resurrection.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Matt 20: 28

Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, may the sacraments we have received nourish in us the faith taught by the preaching of the apostles and kept safe through the vigilant care of the holy bishops.
Through Christ our Lord...