

April 27th

Saint SIMEON, second Bishop of Jerusalem, Martyr.

Memorial

St Simeon, son of Clopas and cousin of the Lord, was the second bishop of Jerusalem in succession to Saint James, who died in 62. He was arrested during the persecution of Trajan, tortured and crucified. His courage filled his executioners with admiration, for he had by then reached the age of 120 years. The liturgy of this day is centered on the mystery of the Cross, "madness" in the eyes of the world but "the power of God" for believers.

Like St. Simeon, who so perfectly understood and lived the message of the Apostle Peter (1 Pet 4: 13), we too can endure sufferings and share in the Passion of Christ for the upbuilding of his Body, the Church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Heb 12: 1-2

Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us, while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross (Easter time: Alleluia).

COLLECT

O God, by means of the foolishness of the Cross you gave a perfect knowledge of Christ to the holy Bishop and Martyr Simeon. Through his example and his intercession, grant us also, we pray, to carry our cross and sanctify ourselves through penance.
Through Jesus Christ ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the first letter of saint Paul to the Corinthians 1: 18-21. 26-31, 2: 2

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside." Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith.

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 126: 1-2 ab. 4-5. 6 (R. 5)

R. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

or else: R. Alleluia.

1. When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

2. Bring back our exiles, O LORD,
as streams in the south.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

3. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Pet 4: 13

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 16: 24-27

Having shown to his disciples that he was to suffer greatly, be crucified and on the third day be raised, Jesus said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct".
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, look with kindness upon the offering we present to you in memory of the martyrdom of St Simeon, and grant us, through this sacrifice, to proclaim the death of your Son until he comes again.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 16: 24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord our God, as we celebrate the memory of St Simeon, we beg you: grant that our participation in this divine meal may warm our hearts with true charity.
Through Christ our Lord.