

April 23rd

Saint GEORGE, Martyr

Memorial

At the end of the fourth century there was in Lydda (Lod), over the tomb of St George, a church that was already a place of pilgrimage. Tradition is unanimous in honouring him as a soldier put to death for the faith. The worship of the one called "the great martyr" became very popular in the East, and even in the West. St George appears among the saints as a soldier who wore the armour of God to lead the fight against the forces of evil, symbolized by the dragon.

In the lives of the martyrs, the Church, the Body of Christ, relives the paschal mystery of its Head. They are witnesses to us and manifest the meaning of the words of St. Paul: "becoming like Christ in the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Phil 3: 10-11)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Esd 2: 35

Perpetual light will shine on your Saints, O Lord, and life without end for ever, alleluia.

COLLECT

Lord, we proclaim your power and we humbly beseech you: may St. George be as prompt to help us in our weakness as he was in imitating the Passion of your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the letter of Saint James 1: 2-4. 12

Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 64: 2. 3. 10. 11 (R. 11a)

R. The just one will rejoice in the LORD.

1. Hear, O God, the voice of my complaint;
guard my life from dread of the foe.

2. From the assembly of the wicked, hide me,
from the throng of those who do evil.

3. Then will all be afraid;
they will tell what God has done.
They will ponder God's deeds.

4. The just one will rejoice in the LORD;

and fly to him for refuge.
All upright hearts will glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 9: 24

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke 9: 23-26

Jesus said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the sacrifice of reconciliation and praise your servants offer on the feast of St George, your martyr; may it obtain for us the forgiveness of our sins and make us continually thankful to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 12: 24-25

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Alleluia

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

On the feast of St George, we have received for our joy the bread you have given us, Lord, and we beseech you: as in this communion we announce the death of your Son, may we partake with the martyrs in his resurrection and glory.
Through Christ our Lord.