

December 5th

St. SABAS, abbot

Memorial

Sabas was born in Mutalasca near Caesarea in Cappadocia, now Turkey, in 439. While still young, he embraced monastic life. In 457, he went to Jerusalem to visit the holy places, and later spent some time in Egypt, then withdrew into the wilderness of Judea, where he founded several monasteries or lauras the purpose of which was to combine the advantages of solitude with those of common life. The largest of these lauras still bears his name: Mar Saba.

He was ordained priest in 491 by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, but he continued in monastic life, became an archimandrite and one of the great figures of Palestinian monasticism. Faithful to the Council of Chalcedon, he had much to suffer in the struggle for faith in Jesus, true God and true man. He died on December 5th, 532, and his body, which was returned from Venice in 1965, now rests in the great church of the monastery.

" I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. " (Hosea 2: 13b). As he had once seduced his people in the wilderness, God continues to call men and women to a life of solitude. The hermit belongs only to God: he renounces all the pleasures and security of this world, for he must comply with the absolute requirements of the divine. He is dedicated to the worship of God alone. And yet, in his prayer, the whole Church, the world, are constantly present.

It is this call of the absolute St. Sabas had heard and experienced in a radical way, taking the words of Christ literally: "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. " (Mt 16, 25)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hos. 2: 13b. 18a

I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. I will espouse you to me forever.

COLLECT

Lord, you raised up St. Sabas to develop monastic life in a wonderful way and to be vigourous in defence of the true faith. Grant that we may always act accoring to truth, in charity, and to serve you alone with joy.

Through Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Philippians 3: 7-11

My brothers, whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 92: 2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (R. 2a)

R. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,
and your truth in the watches of the night,

2. The just will flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.
Planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

3. Still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the LORD is upright.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Gal 6: 14

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

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

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "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, be pleased to accept our offerings. We are pilgrims in this passing world. Teach us to love the things of heaven and become attached to those realities which do not pass away.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 16: 25

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

or else: 1 Co 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, we have been renewed through the sharing of this one bread and one cup. May all believers be of one heart and one mind in Christ Jesus.

Who lives and reigns...