

JULY 15th

Dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord^[SEP]

In Jerusalem: Solemnity

Elsewhere: Feast

It was the Emperor Constantine who built this complex of buildings called the Holy Sepulchre (or Church of the Anastasis) on the site of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of Christ, and the dedication of which was solemnly celebrated in 335.

This dedication continued to be celebrated, especially in the East, by processions to the holy places and feasts that lasted a week, worshiping both Christ's passion and His resurrection.

Today's feast invites us to recall the mystery of this place where the cross of salvation was erected and the empty tomb of the One whose Resurrection conquered death and provided everlasting hope.

This is where the Church was born, not as a stone structure, but as a living Body whose members we are and by which God wishes to be present among men.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Isa 11, 10

On that day, the root of Jesse, will be as a sign for the nations, ^[SEP]the Gentiles shall seek him out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

COLLECT

Lord, Jesus Christ, who chose to undergo death for us, to be placed in a ^[SEP]tomb and to rise on the third day, grant to us your servants who celebrate the ^[SEP]consecration of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, to participate one day in ^[SEP]the glory of your resurrection

Who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Isaiah 53: 2-9a

He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 16: 1-2. 5. 9. 10 (R. 10)

R. For you will not let your holy one see corruption.

1. Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD".

2. O LORD, it is you who are my portion and cup;

you yourself who secure my lot.

3. And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my flesh shall rest in hope.

4. For you will not abandon my soul to hell,
nor let your holy one see corruption.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles

13:16a. 26-31

So Paul got up, motioned with his hand, and said, "My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people".

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84: 2-3a

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the LORD.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24, 1-12

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. 2 Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day". And they remembered his words.

Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, receive our offerings and our prayers; grant that we may be buried with Christ, and thus dead to the world but alive for Him alone.

Through the same Christ..

EASTER PREFACE I

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world ; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim :

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, who hung upon the cross for us has risen from the tomb.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you give us the joy of honouring the tomb of your Son; grant that we may be freed from all that weighs us down and transformed into new people as we celebrate these sacred mysteries.

Through Christ our Lord.