

April 24th

Saint MARY, WIFE OF CLOPAS, and other holy women, disciples of the lord

Memorial

The women disciples of Jesus, whose presence is attested by the Gospels, played an important role in the birth of the early Church of Jerusalem. Some appear to have already followed Jesus during his public life (Luke 8:2). They are there at the foot of the Cross, at the time of his Passion. On Easter morning, before the empty tomb, they are the first ones to receive the revelation of the overwhelming event of the Resurrection. They will be its first witnesses, "apostles of the apostles" and messengers of joy.

The Acts of the Apostles show us that this band of faithful women remained, with Mary, the mother of Jesus, linked to the group of the disciples. Gathered in the Cenacle on the Mount of Olives, they all waited in prayer for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift that gave birth to the first Christian community, the gift that animates the Church of Christ.

Entrance Antiphon Matt 28: 10

Go and carry the news to my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and there they will see me. (T.P. Alleluia.)

COLLECT

O God, you allowed Saint Mary, wife of Clopas, and the other holy women to follow your Son and to serve him devoutly. May we also with loving dedication serve Christ in our brothers and sisters. 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 Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-14

[After Jesus was taken up into the heavens,] the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alpheus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23: 1-6. (R. 16: 5a)

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

(or: R. Alleluia).

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

2. Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.

3. 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.

4. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

5. 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 Matt 28: 2. 6

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and said to the women:
he whom you seek has been raised, exactly as he promised.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 28: 1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."
The gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, you allowed the holy women to stand in ardent love beside the cross of your Son. By the power of this mystery grant that, by participating in his sufferings, we may also take part in his glory.
Through the same Christ our Lord...

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Acts 1: 14

Together they devoted themselves to constant prayer. There were some women in their company, and Mary the mother of Jesus.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Satisfied with the bread of eternal life, we humbly pray you, O God our Saviour, that you, who appeared to the holy women in the glory of your Resurrection, may also make us partakers in heaven in the joy of the Resurrection.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.