

October 12th

The GOOD THIEF

Optional memorial

The Evangelists tell us that Jesus was crucified between two thieves, but Luke is the only one to tell us about one of them converting, who, by his act of faith was forgiven, and deserved to be the first to enter "into paradise" by following Christ.

He is traditionally referred to as Dismas (which in Greek means "moribund") or Titus. His cult is attested already in Jerusalem in the 10th century.

The mercy of God can, in an instant, cover and clear the sin of man, provided there is recognition of one's sins and turning towards Him with confidence. The Prophets had already proclaimed this message. Jesus, in his turn, will confirm it at the final moment of his life: He who, from the beginning had a predilection for the poor and sinners, listens from high on the cross to the cry of the tortured and gives this extraordinary answer, which infinitely surpasses all one could hope for: "Truly I say unto you, today you shall be with me in paradise."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON                      Luke 23: 42

The other criminal said: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

COLLECT

All powerful and merciful God, who forgives sinners, we beseech you that just as Your Son looked with love upon the Good Thief so may You lead us us to true repentance and grant us the eternal glory that was promised him.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from from the book of Isaiah                      1: 16-18

Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM      Ps 32: 1-2. 5. 10b-11 (R. 1a)

R. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.

1. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile.

2. To you I have acknowledged my sin;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said, "I will confess my transgression to the LORD."  
And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

3. but loving mercy surrounds  
one who trusts in the LORD.  
Rejoice in the LORD; exult, you just!  
Ring out your joy, all you upright of heart!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION                      Luke 23: 42

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."  
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke                      23: 39-43

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."  
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, Lord, that we may be purified of all our faults through this sacrifice which, offered on the altar of the cross, has taken away the sins of all the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON                      Luke 23: 43

Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be with me <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>in Paradise."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, we have received these divine gifts; may they prepare us for the eternal life that from the cross You promised the Good Thief.  
Through Christ our Lord.