

December 16th

King DAVID
and all the holy ANCESTORS of Jesus

Memorial

The second king of Israel (1004-965 BC) and successor to Saul, David was born in Bethlehem, of the family of Jesse, and was anointed by the prophet Samuel. During many wars, he defeated the Philistines several times, as well as the Moabites and the Ammonites. He united the tribes of Israel in his kingdom, making Jerusalem its capital, bringing the Ark of the Covenant there and instituting the liturgy. In the Psalms, he expressed his faith and his hope in the God of Israel. He was, says the Bible, a King "according to the heart" of God, who bound himself to him by a promise and made him the founder of a line destined to reign forever in peace and prosperity.

Jews, Christians and Muslims have always had a great veneration for King David. From the fourth century, his memory was celebrated at the cave of Machpelah, in Hebron, where he inaugurated his reign and established its capital until the conquest of Jerusalem. The tradition which locates the place of his burial on Mount Zion dates only from the 11th century.

The feast of this day unites in one celebration the memory of King David and that of the other ancestors of Christ. This is because God, from the beginning, carefully prepared humanity to welcome the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. From Adam to Mary, so many righteous people waited and prepared for the coming of one who was to be the fruit of our humanity. Among them all, David has a prominent place, the chosen one consecrated by an anointing, the "blessed" king whose name alone evokes the love of God for his people and his fidelity to the Covenant.

The liturgy of this day sings of the freedom of divine election that looks down over the smallest and the lowest (first reading) and the promise of an eternal kingship of peace, to be fulfilled in Jesus, a descendant of David according to the word of the angel to Mary: "The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1: 32).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 89: 4b-5

"I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your descendants forever, and set up your throne through all ages."

COLLECT

Lord Jesus, you have made yourself Son of David in order that we might truly become sons of God. We pray that we may progress in this filial spirit until we attain the eternal glory of the children of God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16: 1b. 6-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him before Samuel, who said, "The Lord has not chosen him." Next Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There, anoint him, for this is he!"

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 110, 1. 2. 3. 4. (R. Ps 21, 4a)

R. You came to meet him with blessings of prosperity.

1. The LORD's revelation to my LORD:
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your foes your footstool."

2. The LORD will send from Sion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of your foes.

3. With you is princely rule on the day of your power.
In holy splendor, from the womb before the dawn,
I have begotten you.

4. The LORD has sworn an oath he will not change:
"You are a priest forever,
in the line of Melchizedek."

or: Ps 132: 1-2. 9-10. 11. 12. 17-18 (R. Luke 1: 32)

R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.

1. O LORD, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the LORD,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

2. Your priests shall be clothed with justice;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your anointed.

3. The LORD swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
"A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne."

4. "If your sons hold fast to my covenant,
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons, in turn, shall sit
on your throne from age to age."

5. "I will make a stock sprout up for David;
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover his enemies with shame,
but on him my crown shall shine."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 21: 9b

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

22: 41-46a

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, saying, "What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They replied, "David's." He said to them, "How, then, does David, inspired by the Spirit, call him 'lord,' saying:

"The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your feet'?"

If David calls him 'lord,' how can he be his son?"

No one was able to answer him a word.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Remember, Lord, your Covenant, and accept these gifts that we present to you in memory of Saint David. May we who, like him, have sinned, also imitate him in our repentance. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Luke 1: 69

He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father most holy, we have celebrated in this Eucharist, the memory of the holy ancestors of Jesus, our Lord, and we have been renewed by this divine nourishment. Teach us, we pray, to wait in faith for the coming of your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Who lives and reigns...