

January 20th

Saint EUTHYMIUS, the Abbot

Optional memorial

Born in 377 of in Militéne, Armenia, Saint Euthymius the Great was ordained a priest and appointed Inspector of the surrounding monasteries, but, driven by his desire for solitude, he took refuge in Patestine, in Jerusalem in 406. He remained some time in the monastery of Faran, and others thereafter, as to escape his reputation of performing miracles. He had a great influence on the monastic life of Patestine, and even on St Saba who owed him much. He led the Arab tribes to Christian faith and worked to bring back to the unity of the Church those who were separated from it, and among them the Empress Eudoxia, wife of Theodosius II. He had to suffer to remain faithful to the Councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon. He died almost a centenarian, 20 January 473.

Sr Euthymius, longing for absolute, sought the face of God in the solitude of the desert. His life reminds us that the search for God takes place in detachment and silence of the heart.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Jer 17: 7

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have promised to those who leave everything for your sake a hundredfold in this world and in the world to come eternal life, graciously grant that, through the intercession of St. Euthymius the Abbot, we may learn to temper all earthly desires and to seek you above all things.
Through Our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

“And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

A reading from the letter of saint Paul to the Colossians 3: 12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 63: 2-6. 8-9 (R. 1b)

R. For you my soul is thirsting.

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,

like a dry, weary land without water.

2. I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

3. I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

4. For you have been my strength;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 133: 1

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers live in unity!
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

" And you who have given up everything for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more "

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 19, 27-29

Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon these gifts, we pray you Lord, which we lay upon your altar on the memorial of St. Euthymius, and as you gave him to defend the mystery of your Incarnate Word, so may you grant us to remain steadfast unto death in professing the true faith.
Through Christ our Lord...

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 19: 27-29

"Amen, I say to you that you who have left all things and followed me, will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. "

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by our sharing in this divine gift, we beseech you, Lord our God, that following the example of St. Euthymius in bearing the suffering of Jesus in our own bodies, we may strive to hold fast to you alone.

Through Christ our Lord...