

October 21st

Saint HILARION, abbot

Optional Memorial

Hilarion was born in Tabaste near Gaza in 291 of pagan parents and died in Cyprus in 371. His parents sent him to study in Alexandria, and there he was converted and was attracted by the eremitical life, under the influence of St. Anthony, the father of hermits, with whom he lived for a time. He then returned to his country and, as his parents died while he was still young, he retired near Maïuma where he lived as a hermit. His reputation for holiness gradually drew many disciples to him, and it was for them that he built the first monastery in Palestine. This example gave rise to numberless monasteries throughout the region. But the very success of Hilarion became his everlasting cross: he had fled the world to find solitude and behold, his holiness filled the desert around him with people. He had to flee to Egypt, and then he went to Sicily and Dalmatia, and finally to Cyprus where he died. His body was brought back to Maïuma by his disciple Esychius. His life was written by St. Jerome; it is a witness for us of chastity, humility and love of Holy Scripture.

According to ancient tradition, the goal of monastic life is the search for God in total dedication, and the interior renewal of man who must regain his original state as an image of God. St Hilarion tended towards this ideal, which is expressed in today's liturgy: "It is your face, O LORD, that I seek" (Ps 27), "I continue my race ... for I was seized by Christ Jesus" (Phil 3: 12).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 16: 5

O LORD, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot.

COLLECT

Lord, who have given us through St. Hilarion a witness of holiness according to the Gospel, grant that in this changing world, we may devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the things of God.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 3: 7-8. 12-14

Finally, my brothers, whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

It is not that I have already taken hold of the resurrection or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 27: 1. 4. 8b-11 (R. 8b)

R. It is your face, O LORD, that I seek

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

2. There is one thing I ask of the LORD,
only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
to inquire at his temple.

3. It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
O God, my Savior!
Instruct me, LORD, in your way;
on an even path lead me

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Phil 3. 8b-9a

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John 12: 24-25

Jesus said to his disciples: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

God of all goodness, who allowed Your servant Saint Hilarion to do away with his old self and put on the new man in accordance with your heart, grant that we be renewed interiorly, so that this oblation may be acceptable to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 19: 28-29

"Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we have been refreshed by this Eucharist: through the example of St. Hilarion may we learn to constantly seek you in all things and to live in this world in accordance with the new man.
Through Christ our Lord.