

May 3rd

Saint JAMES, Apostle
First Bishop of Jerusalem
Principal Patron of the Patriarchal Diocese

Solemnity

Saint James "the Less", son of Alpheus, is undoubtedly the one the evangelists call "the Lord's brother" (Mark 6: 3, Matt 13: 55). He was the first bishop of Jerusalem. The day after Pentecost, he appears as the spiritual leader of the Jewish-Christian community, surrounded by the veneration of all. Very Jewish by culture, he supported Paul against the Judaizers, at the time of the dispute in Antioch which was to result in the first Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15 - Gal 2, 9), because he had understood, following the first apostolic preaching, the need to open the doors of the Faith to the pagans. He rendered to Christ the witness of martyrdom: he was thrown from the top of the Temple and stoned to death, in 62.

In the Epistle attributed to him, the author, showing a knowledge of Jewish scriptures and a familiarity with the teachings of Jesus, exalts the poor as the favorites of God. He exhorts us to faith, not a sterile intellectual faith, but a faith that manifests itself in the concrete reality of our daily lives. "It is not those who say "Lord, Lord" who will enter the Kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my Father..." (Matt 7, 21).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let us rejoice in the Lord, on this solemnity of Saint James, Apostle; on this solemnity the angels rejoice and sing praises to the Son of God. (T.P. Alleluia.)

COLLECT

All-powerful and everlasting God, you have deigned to illumine us with the teachings of the Apostle, Saint James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem. Through his intercession grant that we may witness the Christian faith in words and deeds and so arrive at the holy city, the new Jerusalem. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 15: 1. 6. 13-19

In Antioch, some who had come down from Judea were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (...) The apostles and the presbyters met together to consider this matter.

After they had finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up so that all other peoples may seek the Lord – even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.' Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 119: 1-2. 4-5. 15-16 (R. 32)

R. I will run the way of your commandments

(or: R. Alleluia).

1. Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

2. You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.

3. I will ponder your precepts,
and consider your paths.
I take delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of saint James apostle 15: 1. 6. 13-19

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble. Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called "the friend of God." See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Glory to you O Christ, you who appeared to James.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7: 21. 24-25

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. "
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look kindly, Lord, on the gifts we present to you
on the feast of the Apostle James. Grant that through his prayers we may persevere in the faith and
manifest it in all our deeds.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For you have built your Church
to stand firm on apostolic foundations,
to be a lasting sign of your holiness on earth
and offer all humanity your heavenly teaching.

Therefore, now and for ages unending,
with all the hosts of Angels,
we sing to you with all our hearts,
crying out as we acclaim:

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 7: 21

Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven but only the one who
does the will of my Father in heaven.
(T.P. Alleluia.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Eucharistic bread, O Lord, which we have received on the solemnity of the Apostle, Saint
James, renew our strength, so that we may always keep the faith you have given us and bear an
abundant harvest of good works.
Through Christ our Lord.