

Saint Andrew the Apostle

30 November

Holy Day

Today we honour the memory of an apostle named Andrew. The Gospels say that he was a fisherman and the brother of Peter, and his name always appears near the top in the lists of the twelve apostles. The Fourth Gospel pairs him with Philip in answering the Lord's questions at the feeding of the five thousand and later in acting as an intermediary for some pagans who wished to meet Jesus. But that is all: Andrew's story is no sooner begun, than it is swallowed up in the greater story of Jesus.

The people of the Church later invented legends about Andrew, to give their memory more than just a name to honour and more than just a single episode to recount. These legends gave Andrew exotic adventures travelling and preaching in many different places until he was martyred, crucified on a cross in the form of an "X." Some of these legends may indeed be true, but biographical truth is not their purpose or function. So we come back to the gospels and their brief account of Andrew's calling.

Andrew was a Galilean fisherman minding his own business, mending his own nets, when along came Jesus. The Lord called him, and Andrew got up and walked — he walked into the story of Jesus. From that moment on, his life was no longer his own; Andrew had no other story but the story of Jesus, the story that is told about Jesus, the story that Jesus himself tells.

And that is how we honour the memory of the apostle named Andrew: by remembering his name as we tell the story of Jesus, the One who called both Andrew and us into the story of salvation.

See Readings, page 746.

Sentence

You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1.8*

Collect

Almighty God,
who gave your apostle Andrew
grace to believe in his heart
and to confess with his lips that Jesus is Lord,
touch our lips and our hearts
that faith may burn within us,
and we may share in the witness of your Church
to the whole human family;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Deuteronomy 30.11-14 *or* Romans 10.8b-18 Psalm 19.1-6

Refrain Their message has gone out to the ends of the world.

Or v. 4 or CR 2

Matthew 4.18-22

Prayer over the Gifts

Eternal God, ruler of the universe,
may we who have heard your word
always be ready to answer your call
and to follow without fear.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface of Apostles

Prayer after Communion

Father,
may the gifts we have received at your table
give us courage to follow the example of Andrew the apostle
and share in the ministry of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.