

Readings + St. James, Apostle + Sunday, July 25, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, the first among the twelve to be martyred for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour out on the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service which is the true mark of authority among your people, through Jesus Christ our servant, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you

shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Psalmody Psalm 7:1-10

O LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me;

lest like a lion they tear me in pieces and snatch me away with none to deliver me.

O LORD my God, if I have done these things: if there is any wickedness in my hands,

if I have repaid my friend with evil, or plundered my enemy without cause,

then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, trample my life into the ground, and lay my honor in the dust.

Stand up, O LORD, in your wrath; rise up against the fury of my enemies. Awake, O my God, decree justice.

Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you.

Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High.

O LORD, judge the nations; give judgment for me according to my righteousness, O

LORD, and according to my innocence, O Most High.

Let the malice of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.

God is my shield and defense, the savior of the true in heart.

Second Reading Acts 11:27 – 12:3a

²⁷ At that time [when Barnabas and Saul were in Antioch], prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹ The disciples determined that according to their ability, each

would send relief to the believers living in Judea;
³⁰ this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

12 ¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.

² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jewish authorities, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

Holy Gospel Mark 10:35-45

Matthew and Mark both tell this story, with mostly similar details. The main difference is that Mark says Jesus used a baptismal metaphor as well as a cup metaphor, both in his question to the two and in his answer.

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant

us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”