

Augustine of Canterbury

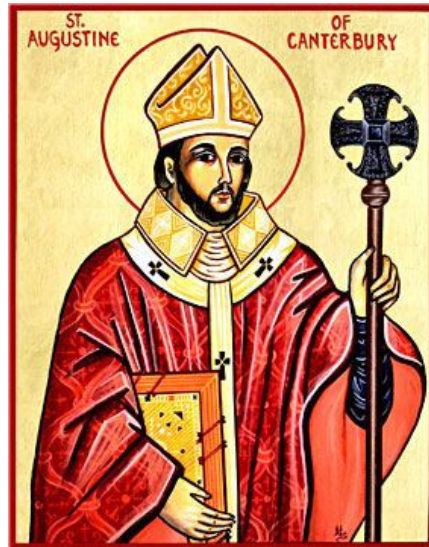
*First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
(May 26)*

Today we remember Augustine, the first archbishop of Canterbury. He enters history in the year 596, when he was deputy-abbot of a monastery in the city of Rome. He would have been quite happy to remain in that position, but Pope Gregory the Great chose him to lead a mission to the Anglo-Saxons of England. Augustine was to convert them to Christianity and to organize an English Church.

With a company of thirty or forty monks, Augustine landed on the coast of Kent in the spring of 597. The local king had married a Christian wife from France, and she convinced him to let the missionaries enter Canterbury and occupy a small, dilapidated church, abandoned by British Christians when they fled from the invading Anglo-Saxons. The pagan king also permitted the Roman missionaries to preach the gospel without hindrance.

Augustine was a reluctant missionary. Instead of actively proclaiming the gospel, he and his companions tried to become a normal part of the landscape, performing the liturgy and making processions much as if they were still in Rome. Those Anglo-Saxons who wished to join them were welcome, but the monks did not go looking for converts. This strategy worked — within four years the king of Kent and his chief retainers accepted baptism. Augustine was made an archbishop by the Pope and by the time he died, on May twenty-sixth in the year 605, the foundations of the English church were truly laid.

For All the Saints, 174



Augustine of Canterbury

I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Collect

Everliving God,
you strengthened your servant Augustine,
though he was fearful and laden with doubt,
to lay the foundations of your Church among the English people.
Empower us with your Spirit,
and with ears tuned to your voice,
to share with all peoples and races
your infinite gift of salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 147 (adapted)

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how beautiful and fitting to praise him!
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.
The Lord puts the fallen on their feet again
and pushes the wicked into the ditch.
He's not impressed with the strength of the horse,
nor in the legs of the warrior;
the Lord delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Apostles Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,
**I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
+the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Prayers

We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered
this week, or someone for whom we want to pray . . .

We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight . . .

We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs
our prayer . . .

We bring to God our families, friends, schools, and churches,
that they be safeguarded and guided by his enduring love . . .

We bring ourselves to God, knowing he hears us, knows us,
and loves us . . .

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Prayer of John Chrysostom

Almighty God,
you have given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplications unto you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name
you will be in the midst of them:
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions
as may be best for us; granting us in this world
knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come
life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever. Amen.**