

Theodore of Tarsus

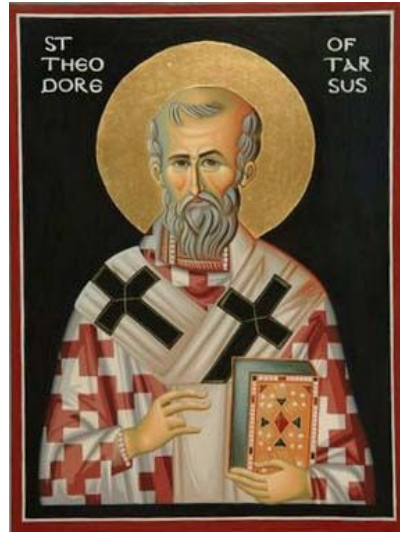
*Archbishop of Canterbury, 690
(September 19)*

Today we remember Theodore, who became archbishop of Canterbury in the year 667 and brought peace and new order to the troubled English Church.

Theodore was sixty-five years old and a refugee from Tarsus in war-torn Asia Minor, when the Pope chose him to rule the Anglo-Saxon church. Once he arrived in England, he found an institution in disarray. A number of bishops were flouting a recent synod, where those who followed the customs of the older Celtic tradition agreed, for unity's sake, to conform to Roman usages. Theodore also found that many dioceses had to be reorganized, or new dioceses set up, just to meet the pastoral needs of the people. He attacked these needs with the energy of a man half his age.

He was unyielding in his use of authority wherever he found irregularities, but generous beyond measure towards those who combined true holiness of life with a genuine concern for unity. The Venerable Bede says that Theodore "was the first of the archbishops whom the whole English church consented to obey." His skills as an organizer, and his wisdom in setting policies, made the Church a truly national and unifying force in a country still divided into many kingdoms.

When he died on this date in the year 690, he left the Anglo-Saxon Church so strong and at peace that it was able to spare many of its best people to lead the advance in the conversion of the Germanic peoples in continental Europe.



Theodore of Tarsus

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Collect

Almighty God,
by the faithful ministry of your bishop Theodore
you bound up the wounds of the English Church
and renewed its vigour in the works of peace.
Teach us, we pray, the art of your healing grace,
that we may know the true balm and remedy
for the divisions which afflict your Church;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Responsive Reading: 1 Timothy 2 (psalmized)

Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.
He has sent his anointed one,
the son of David, to set us free.
Give thanks to the Lord,
whose promises never fail.
Though I suffer at the hands of the wicked,
treated as a criminal, led away in chains,
God's word is not chained,
his plans are not frustrated.
I endure all for the sake of his chosen ones,
that they might taste the salvation he has in store:
glory eternal, the victor's crown.
You, then, sons and daughters, take heart and listen:
those who trust in God's anointed
will never be put to shame.



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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 kept safe and nourished by his 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.