

formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned". Josephus added that the death was regarded as murder and offended several Jewish people "... who were considered the most fair-minded people in the city, and strict in their observance of the Law". Early Christian authors, subsequent to Josephus, say that James was thrown down from the pinnacle of the Temple, that the fall did not kill him and then he was stoned and clubbed to death. The martyrdom has been dated to 62 A.D. Relics of St James are said to be in the Holy Apostles Church in Rome, having been transferred there from Constantinople by Pope Pelagius I in the 6th century. St James head is reputedly contained in a chapel on the left of the nave in the Cathedral of St James In the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. This also said to mark the location of his martyrdom. St. James is often depicted in Christian art holding a fuller's club, the instrument used to deliver the blow that killed him. He is the patron saint of pharmacists and of the dying.-
Stephen S.

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1,6-7, 10-13

Psalms 32: Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: The lesser-known apostles: (4) St James the less : There is, and always has been confusion over the family relationships of James the less. What is definite is that he was a different person from James the son of Zebedee, there being two James in the list of the

Apostles in the New Testament. St Jerome, referring to the Gospels, affirms that James the less was the son of Mary the wife of Alphaeus, known as Mary of Clopas, who was at the foot of the Cross when Jesus died. He says that James, "*is called the brother of the Lord.... the son of Mary, sister of the mother of our Lord "Mary of Clopas" of whom John makes mention in his book.(John 19:25)*". On this account, James was Jesus' cousin. This also conforms with an early text of Papias of Hierapolis (c70-163 A.D.). Though there is some dispute about this among scholars, I shall proceed on this basis for the remainder of the article.

James was therefore a key figure in early Christianity. He was not only the author of the short epistle attributed to him, but also the head of the early church in Jerusalem. After the Ascension, when Herod imprisoned Peter who was subsequently released by the intervention of an angel, Peter then said: "*Tell this to James and to the brethren*". At the Council of Jerusalem (A.D. 51) after the assembly had debated about the position of Gentiles, it was James who spoke definitively that the Gentiles should not have to observe all the Jewish dietary laws. These and other references to James are found in the Acts of the Apostles. Also, in St Paul's letter to the Galatians, James is referred to as a pillar of the community and as one of those who sent Paul and Barnabas to go to the Gentiles whilst James and others preached to the circumcised.

James' standing in Jerusalem is perhaps emphasised by the fact that his martyrdom is documented in the work of the Jewish historian, Josephus. He says that on the order of Ananus, a Herodian high priest, who "*...assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others; and when he had*