

May 5
Saint Angelus of Sicily
Priest and Martyr

Angelus was one of the first Carmelites to come to Sicily from Mount Carmel. According to trustworthy sources, he was killed by unbelievers in Licata during the first half of the thirteenth century. Acclaimed as a martyr, his body was placed in a church built on the site of his death. Only in 1632 were his relics transferred to the Carmelite Church. Veneration of St Angelus spread throughout the Carmelite Order as well as among the populace. He has been named patron of many places in Sicily. Even to the present time devoted persons invoke him in their needs and faithfully honour him.

Entrance Antiphon - Ps 36:39

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord. He is their strength in time of need.

Opening Prayer

God our Father, strength of the faithful and crown of martyrs, by your grace Saint Angelus was called from Carmel to triumph victorious over the torments of martyrdom. By his prayers grant us that faithfully following his example, we may bear witness to your presence and goodness until death. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Wisdom 3:1-9

3 ¹But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
² In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
³ and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
⁴ For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
⁵ Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
⁶ like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.
⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
⁸ They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
⁹ Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps: 30:3-7; 15-17

R/. Lord Jesus, receive me in thy Reign, Alleluia!

O LORD, my God,
I cried out to you for help and you healed me.
LORD, you brought my soul up from Sheol;
you let me live, from going down to the pit. **R/.**

Sing praise to the LORD, you faithful;
give thanks to his holy memory.
For his anger lasts but a moment;
his favor a lifetime. **R/.**

At dusk weeping comes for the night;
but at dawn there is rejoicing.
Complacent, I once said,
“I shall never be shaken.” **R/.**

But I have put my trust in thee,
O Lord: I said: Thou art my God.
My lots are in thy hands.
Deliver me out of the hands of my enemies;
and from them that persecute me.
Make thy face to shine upon thy servant;
save me in thy mercy. **R/.**

A reading for the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2Tim 2:4-10; 3: 10-13

No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

To you Lord, all angels, all the powers of heaven,

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16, 24-27

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, accept these gifts we present in memory of Saint Angelus, for no temptation could turn him away from you. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon - Jn 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord;

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, we are renewed by the mystery of the eucharist. By imitating the fidelity of Saint Angelus and by our patience may we come to share the eternal life you have promised. Grant this through Christ our Lord.