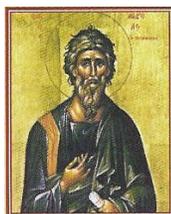


November 30

B. ✚ *Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew, the First-called*



Born in Bethsaida, the brother of the Holy Apostle Peter, the disciple of St. John the Baptist, the first one called by the Lord for apostolic service, he was among His closest disciples and, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached the Gospel in many different countries. (See about him: Jn. 1:35-42, 12:22; Mt. 4:18-19, 10:2; Mk. 13:3-5; Acts 15:28).

According to church tradition, the Holy Apostle Andrew preached the Gospel even to the Scythians living on Southern, Eastern and Northeastern coast of the Black Sea. Ven. Nestor the Chronicler records that the Apostle Andrew going to preach in various countries, was in Russia and went up the Dnieper River to the place where Kiev is now located (but according to other legends, he even reached Novgorod). Having climbed a mount, he set up a cross there and told his disciples accompanying him: "The grace of God will shine on this place, churches to Christ will be raised up and the true light will spread from here into all the country".

The apostolic labors of St. Andrew ended with the ascetic efforts of confessor and martyr in Achaia, in the city of Patras (about 62 A. D.), and he was crucified on a cross (crossed bars which according to tradition, was made slanting) by the Eparch Aegeates. How many caresses and threats Aegeates made to St. Andrew to get him to refrain from preaching Christ! The first-called apostle not only did not refrain from preaching but also disclosed to the eparch himself the mysteries of the Christian faith. How many different torments did Aegeates use, but St. Andrew did not refrain from confessing in a loud voice the all-holy name of the Lord Jesus and prayed only that the Lord through His grace would enlighten the torturer with the light of the Christian faith. Finally, crucified on the cross, the holy apostle for three days did not stop confessing Christ before the crowds of people gathering around him, teaching all not only the faith, but also the

confession of faith and the endurance for the faith, saying: "No, there is not one torment that compares worthily with the reward earned by it".

The head of the Holy Apostle Andrew is now in Rome, but his right hand up to the elbow is in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow.

Troparion, tone 4

**As the first-called of the apostles,
And brother of their leader, O Andrew,
Entreat the Master of all,
That peace be granted to the world,
And great mercy to our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 2

**Let us praise the God-called namesake of courage,
And follower of the leader of the church, Peter his relative:
For, as He called him of old, even now He calls us:
Come, we have found the Desired One.**

Paramoera: see Apr. 27. **Matins Gospel:** Mt. 4:18-23; sel. 9. **Epistle:** see Apr. 27. **Gospel:** Jn. 1:35-51; sel. 4.

St. Frumentius, Archbishop of the Indies (in Ethiopia, now Abyssinia)

Together with his brother Aedesius and his teacher he, during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great, was taken captive by the Abyssinians following a shipwreck. St. Frumentius soon held an important post at the court of the Abyssinian king and, using his authority, actively spread the Christian faith among the Abyssinians. When the number of those converted was already plentiful, St. Frumentius was installed as the Bishop of Abyssinia by St. Athanasius of Alexandria. Having converted the whole country to Christ, St. Frumentius died about 380.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p. 0437
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