

August 28

**ST. AUGUSTINE, BISHOP
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH AND LAWGIVER OF OUR ORDER**

Feast

Saint Augustine was born at Tagaste in Africa in 354. He was unsettled and restlessly searched for the truth until he was converted to the faith at Milan and baptized by Ambrose. Returning to his homeland, he embraced an ascetic life and subsequently was elected bishop of Hippo. For thirty-four years he guided his flock, instructing it with sermons and many writings, until his death in 430. He was one of the founders and lawgivers of Western monasticism. Many orders and religious groups have taken his Rule for the Servants of God as their norm of life. Our Seven Holy Fathers canonically received the Rule of St. Augustine from Ardingo, bishop of Florence, about the year 1245.

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship the Lord, fount of all wisdom and source of love.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Office of Readings

HYMN

An approve hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

One of the series of antiphons (A, B, C) may be chosen.

Ser. A I have loved truth, for the truthful person arrives at light.

Ser. B We have only one command, that we love one another.

Ser. C Humility is the safe and true way to heaven: lift up your hearts to the Lord.

Psalm 21:2-8, 14

Thanksgiving for the king's victory

He accepted life that he might rise and live for ever (Saint Hilary)

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;
How your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;
You have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,
You have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.
You have laid upon him majesty and splendour,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength;
we shall sing and praise your power.

Psalm-prayer

Father, you have given us life on this earth and have met us with the grace of redemption. Bestow your greatest blessing on us, the fullness of eternal life.

Antiphon 1

Ser. A I have loved truth, for the truthful person arrives at light.

Ser. B We have only one command, that we love one another.

Ser. C Humility is the safe and true way to heaven: lift up your hearts to the Lord.

Antiphon 2

Ser. A Your law, O Lord, is truth, and you are truth.

Ser. B The beginning of love is to give one's excess goods to the poor.

Ser. C Humility strengthens love: love blots out sin.

Psalm 92

Praise of God the Creator

Sing in praise of Christ's redeeming work (Saint Athanasius).

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this
and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass
and all who do evil thrive:
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.
See how your enemies perish;
all doers of evil are scattered.

Antiphon 2

Ser. A Your law, O Lord, is truth, and you are truth.

Ser. B The beginning of love is to give one's excess goods to the poor.

Ser. C Humility strengthens love: love blots out sin.

Antiphon 3

Ser. A O Eternal Truth! You are my God; for you I sigh day and night. Ser. B The perfection of love is that we are ready even to die for others. Ser. C Where love is, there is peace; where there is humility, love is there.

II

To me you give the wild-ox's strength;

you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;
my ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Psalm-prayer

Take our shame away from us, Lord, and make us rejoice in your saving works. May all who have been chosen by your Son always abound in works of faith, hope and love in your service.

Antiphon 3

Ser. A O Eternal Truth! You are my God; for you I sigh day and night.

Ser. B The perfection of love is that we are ready even to die for others.

Ser. C Where love is, there is peace; where there is humility, love is there.

V. The favours of the Lord I will sing forever.

R. Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 13:1-13

Faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love

If I speak in human and angelical tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fades. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

RESPONSORY

V. Let us love God above all things, then our neighbour.

R. These are the principal commandments given to us.

V. These are precepts we order you who live in the monastery to observe.

R. These are the principal commandments given to us.

SECOND READING

Choose one of the following readings.

From the Rule of Saint Augustine, bishop
(N. 3-4.9.41-43: ed. A. Trapè, Milan, 1971)

Live in unity in your home

The first purpose for which you have come together is to live in unity in the house of the Lord, and to be of one mind and one heart in God.

Do not call anything your own, but hold all that you have in common. And let distribution of food and clothing be made by your superior-not to all alike, because all have not the same strength, but to each one according to need. For thus you read in the Acts of the Apostles: *They had all things in common... and distribution was made to each, according as any one had need.* Therefore, let all live together in harmony and love. And honour God in each other whose temples you have become.

Either do not have quarrels, or if they begin, put a stop to them at once, lest anger grow into hatred and make a beam out of a splinter and make the soul a murderer. For thus you read: *Everyone who bates his brother is a murderer.*

If anyone has injured another by insulting, abusive, or even incriminating language, let him remember to make satisfaction as soon as possible for the wrong that has been done; and one who has been injured must forgive without further controversy. And if both have injured each other, they must mutually forgive their trespasses for the sake of your prayers which should be the more sincere the more frequently you repeat them. One who is frequently tempted to anger yet hastens to beg forgiveness of the one injured is better than the person who is angered more slowly but who is also slow to beg forgiveness. Those who never wish to beg forgiveness, or who do not do it from the heart, do not belong in the monastery, even though they are not put out.

Be sparing, therefore, in the use of harsh words. If they have escaped your lips, let those same lips be prompt to heal the wounds they have made. But when the need of discipline forces you to use harsh words in correcting misconduct, and you feel you have been too harsh, you are not required to beg forgiveness of those who are subject to you, lest the authority of the one who must rule be lessened in the eyes of those who must be subject, while too much attention is given to humility. But ask forgiveness from the Lord of all, who knows how much you love even those whom you correct too severely. However, your love for one another must be spiritual not carnal.

RESPONSORY See Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 4, 16b

V. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other.

R. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another.

V. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them.

R. This is how ...

Alternative.

From the sermons of Saint Augustine, bishop

(Sermo Guelferbytanus 32, n. 1-5. 9; ed. G. Morin, *Sancti Augustini Sermones post Maurinos reperti*, Romae, 1930, p. 563-566.568. 570-571)

We are leaders and we are servants

Today, by God's grace, a bishop is ordained for you. What we must say today should serve as an exhortation for you. In fact, one who has authority over the people must first realize that he is the servant of all. This cannot be taken lightly; one who has authority cannot disdain this service to others since the Lord of lords himself did not refuse to become our servant. Because of human frailty, the desire of prestige entered the hearts of the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ; their eyes were clouded by the smoke of pride. We read in the Gospel that *a dispute arose among them about who should be regarded as the greatest.* But the Lord, their physician, cured their illness. Knowing the weakness which lay behind their discussion he placed before them some small children and said,

Unless you become like little Children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. With a small child, he taught humility. After having used the example of the small child, the Lord spoke again with the apostles to encourage their humility and said, *Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest.* Therefore, we are your servants; but also servants with you. We are your servants, but we all have the same Lord. We are your servants, but in Jesus, as the Apostle says, *We are your servants for Jesus' sake.* Because of him we are servants, but because of him we are also free. To those who believe in him he says, *If the Son frees you, you will really be free.* How can I, then, hesitate to be a servant for love of him when I know that if he had not freed me I would have remained in hopeless slavery? We are leaders and we are servants. We may preside, but only if we serve. The Lord himself has taught us how to be servants. He gave his life for the redemption of all; he redeemed us. Who among us is capable of redeeming another? By means of his blood and death we have been saved from death; through his humiliation we have been raised up. But, we, too, must do our small part for Christ's members, since we ourselves are his members. He is the head, we the body. Saint John in his letter exhorts us to follow the example of the Lord who had said: *Whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all; such is the case with the Son of man who has come not to be served by others, but to serve, to give his own life as a ransom for the many.* Saint John writes: *Christ laid down his life for us; we, too, must lay down our lives for our brothers.* A good bishop will do the same; if not, he is not a bishop. If he wants to be what his title signifies, let him not listen to me, but with me; we will listen and learn together as students in the same school. We will learn from the same teacher, Christ, who teaches now in heaven because he first taught from the cross on earth. He showed us the path of humility; he descended in order to ascend, seeking those who were fallen and raising up those who wanted to embrace him. Let us study this aspect of the Lord; let us reflect on his humility, drink of the cup of his humiliation, embrace him and meditate on him.

Do not place your hope in us, whatever our qualities might be. I speak lowly of myself that I may speak as a bishop: I wish to take delight in you, not to flatter you. It is only in the name of Christ that I speak to the People of God, in the Church of God; I speak only as a servant of God. Do not place your hope in us or in others. We give you Christ in the name of Christ. It is Christ who comes to you; let him be the judge of our ministry.

RESPONSORY See John 13:13-15; Matthew 20:28

V. You address me as "Teacher" and "Lord," and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet - I who am Teacher and Lord - then you must wash each other's feet.

R. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do.

V. The Son of Man has come, not to be served by others, but to serve, to give his life as a ransom for the many.

R. What I just did ...

HYMN, Te Deum.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Ant. 1 Praise to you, glory to you, O Fount of Mercies. For the more unhappy I became, the closer you were to me.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I.

Ant. 2 May my heart praise you and my tongue and all my bones proclaim: "O Lord, who is like to you?"

Ant. 3 Let me remember you, O my God, and thank you for your mercy.

READING 1 Corinthians 2:5-7, 9-10

Your faith rests not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

RESPONSORY See 1 Corinthians 2:11,13,16

V. The Spirit we have received is not the world's spirit but God's Spirit. We have the mind of Christ.

R. The Spirit we have received is not the world's spirit but God's Spirit. We have the mind of Christ.

V. We speak in words taught by the Spirit.

R. We have the mind of Christ.

V. Glory to the Father ...

R. The Spirit we have received ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. You inspire us, O Lord, to delight in praising you, because you made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

INTERCESSIONS

My dear brothers and sisters, with hearts pure and joined in love, may our prayers ascend to God the Father of all good gifts: *May your law,
O Lord, be the light of our life.*

Grant that we may love you with upright hearts and praise you with filial devotion,
-that we may ever be pleasing to you.

Fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of your love,

- that we may be inflamed with love for you and for all persons.

Father, as you have loved us,

- so may we love one another.

Lord, let us persevere in the teachings of the Apostles,

- in the breaking of Bread and in prayer.

Give us, Father, brothers and sisters who will minister in the Order,

- may we assist them with sincerity and support them with our efforts.

(As children of one Father, living together in love, let us pray together with Christ Jesus:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

God, our Father, you raised Augustine from the darkness of error to the light of your wisdom and love. You made him an outstanding witness of truth, as well as a legislator of community life. Grant that we, your people, freed from error and sin, may live in the light of your truth and in the warmth of your love. 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.

Daytime Prayer

Antiphons and psalms from the weekday.

Midmorning

READING 1 John 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

V. If God has so loved us,

R. we must love one another.

Midday

READING 1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

V. If we love one another God dwells in us.

R. His love is brought to perfection in us.

Midafternoon

READING 1 John 5:11-12

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life.

V. We know that the Son of God has come. R. He is true God and eternal life.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Love lifts us on high to rest with you forever.

Psalm 15

Who is worthy to stand in God's presence?

You have come to Mount Zion to the city of the living God (Hebrews 12:22).

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;

he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to this brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Psalm-prayer

Make our lives blameless, Lord.' Help us to do what is right and to speak what is true, that we may dwell in your tent and find rest on your holy mountain.

Ant. Love lifts us on high to rest with you forever.

Ant. 2 Your gift inflames our hearts and lifts us up to journey to the peace of Jerusalem.

Psalm 112

The happiness of the just

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth
(Ephesians 5:8-9).

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Psalm-prayer

Lord God, you are the eternal light which illumines the hearts of good people. Help us to love you, to rejoice in your glory, and so to live in this world as to avoid harsh judgment in the next. May we come to see the light of your countenance.

Ant. Your gift inflames our hearts and lifts us up to journey to the peace of Jerusalem. Ant. 3 We rest in your Spirit, your gift to us, the place where we belong.

Canticle Revelation 15:3-4
Hymn of adoration

Mighty and wonderful are your works,
Lord God Almighty! Righteous and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

Who would dare refuse you honour,
or the glory due your name, O Lord?

Since you alone are holy,
all nations shall come
and worship in your presence.
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

Ant. We rest in your Spirit, your gift to us, the place where we belong.

READING Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

RESPONSORY See Galatians 5:16,18,22

- V. Live in accord with the spirit; if you are guided by the spirit, you are not under the law.
R. Live in accord with the Spirit; if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
V. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. Against such there is no law!
R. If you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. Live in accord ...

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new; late have I loved you. You called, you shouted and you shattered my deafness.

INTERCESSIONS

My dear brothers and sisters, let us bring our petitions to God for he who has given Saint Augustine to us as our intercessor and teacher, and has commanded us to ask for what we need:

You, O Lord, are our peace.

Grant, O Lord, that we may properly understand the Rule of Saint Augustine, our teacher,
- so that we may strive diligently to observe the Gospel precepts.

Grant, O Lord, that we may love you with all our heart and our neighbours as ourselves,
- for these are the chief commands which have been given to us before all others.

Grant, O Lord, that we may live with one heart and one mind,
- that we may honour you within us for we are your temples.

Grant, O Lord, that we may be faithful to our Constitutions,

- not as slaves under the law but as a people freed by your grace.

Grant, O Lord, to your servants, our brothers and sisters who have died,

- your promised reward.

(Let us recite the prayer of Christ in the Spirit in whom we are able to cry, Abba, Father:) Our Father ...

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer

Note: Some biblical texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>