

Saint Lawrence
(Deacon and Martyr)
10 August



About Saint Lawrence (+258)

Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10 August 258, four days after Pope Sixtus II and his companions. He fell victim to the anti-Christian persecution of the emperor Valerian. He was known for his youthfulness, love for the poor, courage before his torturers and a sense of humour while dying. Legend tells us that he was roasted on a gridiron.

How does the life of Saint Lawrence apply to us today?

As a deacon, Saint Lawrence was ordained for the service of the poor and distributed the Church's treasure to them. We too should be prepared to share our wealth with the poor.

He is the patron saint of comedians because of what he said to his executioners:
"Turn me over; I'm done on one side."

Laughter is the best medicine and especially so when things go pear shaped. So, when things haven't gone to plan or our best plans got turned upside down, let us remember that even in death while being roasted, Saint Lawrence kept his eye on the Lord and could outsmart his executioners with his sense of humour.

Quote

"Turn me over, I'm done on one side."

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Collect

O God, giver of that ardour of love for you
by which Saint Lawrence was outstandingly faithful in service
and glorious in martyrdom,
grant that we may love what he loved
and put into practice what he taught.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

John 12:24-26

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I tell you, most solemnly,

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

it remains only a single grain;

but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,

wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.'

Antiphon

Whoever serves me must follow me

and where I am there also will my servant be, says the Lord.

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Hymn for the Feast of St Lawrence

Saint Lawrence, deacon in the Church at Rome,
defender and preacher of the Word.
May we with great joy live out the Gospel,
proclaiming it in places unheard.

Saint Lawrence, you were faithful in service
of Jesus Christ and neighbour as well,
serving the poor by sharing out treasure;
showing that in your heart Christ did dwell.

Saint Lawrence, you died a holy martyr,
tortured and burned by violent men.
May we be always firm in our witness,
dying to self again and again.

Saint Lawrence, may we be selfless people,
sharing what we have without reserve;
knowing that God will never forsake us,
and for each kind deed, blessings preserve.

Bunessan 55.54D

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[Unless a grain of wheat](#)

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