

Ss Cosmas and Damian were reputed twin brothers, physicians, and early Christian martyrs. They practiced their profession in the seaport of Aegeae, then in the Roman province of Syria. Accepting no payment for their services attracted many to the Christian faith. They are the patron saints of surgeons and dentists.



First Reading: (Eccl 11:9 - 12:8)

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Remove vexation from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; they are afraid also of

what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17

R. / O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Gospel: (Lk 9:43-45) While they were all marvelling at everything Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, that they should not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Reflection: There can be no sharing in God's Glory without sharing in the shame and agony of the cross. "Let these words sink into your hearts." The miracles of Jesus show his power and majesty. But the teaching about the cross and suffering is something that does not go with their understanding of the Saviour. They were all amazed at what Jesus did. We, too, would like to remain in that state of amazement when everything goes well and when we feel very close to God. But the Gospel tells us not to lose touch with the reality because of the temporal and spiritual blessings. We are to rejoice in the Lord always, and yet be ready to take up the cross and follow him. To what degree do we see the place of suffering in our own lives? Someone has said that the essence of a tea bag comes out when it is in the hot water. **It is through pain and suffering that the best in us can be brought out.** What does Jesus mean when he says, "follow me"?