



St Narcissus of Jerusalem: Many speculate that Narcissus lived to 160 years. There are many reports of his miracles. The most memorable was turning water into oil for use in the church lamps on Holy Saturday when the deacons had forgotten to provide any. Narcissus became bishop of Jerusalem in the late second century.

First Reading: (Rom 9:1-5) I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen by race. They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ. God who is over all be blessed for ever. Amen.

Ps 147:12-15, 19-20

R. / O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Gospel: (Lk 14:1-6) One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath, or not?" But they were silent. Then he took him and healed him, and let him go. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not immediately pull him out on a sabbath day?" And they could not reply to this.

REFLECTION

On a Sabbath day Jesus is invited to the house of a Pharisee. There Jesus performs a healing. For the orthodox Jews Jesus was a law breaker, an irreligious, someone who did not comply with the demands of Judaism. But for Jesus following religion meant giving life and freedom to the people who were bowed down under the weight of the law. Jesus places the religion and all its laws under right perspective. The laws of religion are to promote life. **It is not in hanging on to the letter of the law, but in giving the right priority to life from the perspective of God that one becomes truly religious.**