

## Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna, 156

transferred from Friday, February 23, for Wed Feb 21

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            ***And also with you.***  
*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

O God, the maker of heaven and earth, you gave your venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp, boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Savior, and steadfastness to die for his faith: Give us grace, following his example, to share the cup of Christ and rise to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

### First Reading

Revelation 2:8-11

*All sit.*

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

One like the Son of Man said to me, "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death."

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            ***Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 34:1-8

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; \*  
***his praise shall ever be in my mouth.***
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; \*  
***let the humble hear and rejoice.***
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
***let us exalt his Name together.***
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me \*  
***and delivered me out of all my terror.***
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
***and let not your faces be ashamed.***

6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me \*  
*and saved me from all my troubles.*

7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, \*  
*and he will deliver them.*

8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; \*  
*happy are they who trust in him!*

## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 20:20-23

*All stand.*

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*            ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***