

St Eleutherius (d.590) was an Italian monk. A wonderful simplicity and spirit of compunction were the distinguishing virtues of this holy man. He was the abbot of St. Mark's monastery near Spoleto, and favoured by God with the gift of miracles. He died in St. Andrew's monastery in Rome.



First Reading: (Col 1:24 - 2:3) I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ. For this I toil, striving with all the energy which he mightily inspires within me. Colossians 2:1 For I want you to know how greatly I strive for you, and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the

knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Ps 61:6-7, 9

R./ In God is my safety and glory.

Gospel: (Lk 6:6-11) On a Sabbath day, when Jesus entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" And he looked around on them all, and said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

REFLECTION

In this incident Jesus broke the law. To heal was to work and work was prohibited on Sabbath. Doing good and saving life never abuses the Sabbath or Sunday. In fact, there is no better day to help and minister than on the Lord's Day. If we do not help people no matter the day, even if it is a Sabbath then we are withholding good and doing evil to our neighbour. We are not to abuse, neglect, or ignore religious worship and ceremonies. Sometimes, however, a real need does arise that has to be taken care of immediately. **We must live in close intimacy with Jesus in fellowship and worship, sacrifice and ministry in order to sense what should be done.**