

September 20, 2025

Daily Reflections



SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Feast Day

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Korea was closed to outside influences. However, European Christian missionaries managed to enter the country and many Koreans were baptized. At various times the government persecuted the Christians and many were martyred.

Andrew Kim Tae-gon left Korea to enter a seminary in Macao in southern China. Later he was ordained a priest and returned to Korea. Shortly after returning to Korea, he was arrested and executed.

Paul Chong Hasan was killed in 1839 when he was 45 years old. Both he and Andrew were part of a large number of people martyred in Korea. In 1988 Pope John Paul II canonized 103 of these martyrs (most of whom were married women and men) when he visited Korea.

Today's Responsorial Psalm

*Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.
Know that the LORD is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him; bless his name, for he is good:
the LORD, whose kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations.*

PSALM 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5 (A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING)

Reflection

This has been identified as a short hymn sung during the solemn entry into the temple, possibly in connection with the offering up of a thanksgiving sacrifice. A note of enthusiastic joy characterizes this psalm prayer. Be attentive to words describing the close relationship between Israel and Israel's God, who is the shepherd/leader of the people. This affiliation is identified as, ultimately, an enduring relationship of faithfulness and love. It is most appropriate to offer this psalm within the celebration of ardent believers from Korea.



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For Pondering

As you consider Psalm 100:1-5, what do you say to your Creator God?

What do you hear your Creator God saying to you?

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