

A WARRIOR OF OUR LORD

The GREAT MAARTYR MENAS was born an Egyptian and served as a soldier in the mighty Roman army. The emperors at that time issued a decree ordering that all Christians were to worship idols or face torture. The blessed Menas Renoiunced his rank and withdrew to a life of ascetic struggles in the mountains. He felt it better to live among beasts that in the midst of people who abandoned God.

During this time, Menas studied the Bible and cleansed his soul with prayer and fasting. He desired to live out his life in peace. But after much time had passed, he was made aware of a pagan festival being held nearby. The heathen population intended to honor their vile gods with spectacles in an arena. Filled with zeal and courage, Menas entered the space and proclaimed “I am the servant of Jesus Christ, Who rules over heaven and earth!”

Menas was imediatley detained and tortured. Even extreme cruelty failed to bend the will of this devout Christian. Ultimately he was beheaded and burned.

Today, we as Chrstians face a difficult situation in giving witness to our faith in Christ. Society bids us to sacrifice before the gods of pleasure, power, self-indulgence and glamour. We need to respond to all these allurements by keeping our eyes on Jesus and our ears tuned to His words.

One may think that the world has changed so radically that none of the old beliefs and traditions are valid in our day. But this is not so. We should be careful about dumping our old traditons for all too often nothing but a void is left. As St. Paul said: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever . . .” Let Christ be as vital to us as he was to the Great Martyr Menas.