

In today's Gospel, John 1:35-52, we hear of the first called apostle Andrew who was a disciple of Saint John the Baptist. Upon hearing the Baptist say about Jesus Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God," he followed Him, and told his brother Simon. He brought Simon to Jesus, and He gave him the name Cephas which means Peter.

Saint Andrew the First-Called Apostle followed Jesus straightway upon hearing that He was the Messiah. He followed Jesus Christ in His ministry, and after His Ascension, he preached in various lands, suffering in the name of Christ and died in Patras of Achaia. He was martyred by crucifixion on an X-shaped cross by his request because he found himself unworthy to be crucified like Christ.

Dearest ones of God, how do we follow Christ? Saint Andrew is an example for us all as a disciple of Christ. He followed Him immediately upon learning He was the Messiah, he learned from Him throughout His ministry, and preached the Good News to all ultimately giving up his life in martyrdom. He as a disciple, as a Christian, was transformed by Jesus Christ and followed His ways growing to be like Him in his life.

If Jesus is the Light of the world, then aren't we as baptized Christians, His disciples and too lights in the world? It isn't enough to just be a static member of the Church, but rather we must be that to which we are called—the Body of Christ. We are the hands, the feet, the ears, the eyes, etc. We are to do as He did in His ministry; for instance, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, helping those in need, and praying.

So, how will we follow Christ? Let us pray to our loving God to guide our paths so that our gifts which are bestowed from Him can serve according to His will; in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.