



His Name:

St. Andrew was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee. He worked in the family fishing business with his brother, St. Peter. The name "Andrew" literally means "strong man," but he was also surnamed "Protoklitos" because he was the first who was called upon by Christ.

His Place in Gospel Events:

Originally, St. Andrew had been a disciple of St. John the Baptist, and following John's testimony, he informed Peter when he discovered that Jesus was the awaited Christ. He was present at the feeding of 5,000 in Jerusalem. Also, when the Greek Jews wanted an audience with the Lord, he carried their message to Him along with St. Phillip.

His Priestly Mission:

St. Andrew began his testimony at the Black Sea, gradually moving into Asia Minor. He preached in Achaia, Scotland, and finally in Russia. He is considered a patron saint of Russia and Scotland, with the latter remembering him on its national flag.

His Martyrdom:

Church tradition teaches that, in Achaia, the provincial governor mocked his preaching, scourged, whipped and beat him, and finally threw him into prison. St. Andrew bore these trials as though they had been honours, and this so infuriated the governor that after a time, he ordered Andrew's public humiliation and crucifixion.

He was driven through the streets naked and his tormentors, wishing to prolong his agony, tied - rather than nailed - him to a cross forming an X. This is now called St. Andrew's cross, which appears on the flag of Scotland.

At the site of his crucifixion, there were 20,000 believers. Outnumbered and fearing reprisal, the governor, at the last minute, ordered his executioners to bring the saint down from the cross. But when they attempted to carry out the order, they were paralysed. St. Andrew's face shone with great light, peaceful and blessed.

The governor's wife was so moved by the scene that she believed.

When his hour had passed and his Saviour glorified, the governor's wife prepared a special tomb and Andrew was buried with great honour.

The Coptic Orthodox Church commemorates St. Andrew on the Fourth of Kiahk.

May his blessings be with us all. Amen.