

133// HERE BEGINNETH THE LIFE OF ST. LAMBERT

Lambert was of a noble lineage, but he was more noble by holiness, and was informed in letrure [holy scripture] in his first age. So, for his holiness, he was loved of all the people in such wise that after his master Theodardus, he deserved to be promoted to be bishop of Utrecht. Whom Childeric, king of France, loved much and had him always dear before other bishops.

But when the malice of the Jews grew, the felons put him out of his honour without cause, and set Ferramund in his chair. And Lambert entered into a monastery, and was there and conversed seven years goodly.

On a night when he arose from prayer, he let wind go behind by ignorance, and when the abbot heard it he said: He that hath done that, let him go out to the cross barefoot. And anon Lambert went out to the cross barefoot in his hair [hairshirt], and was there and went in the snow and in the frost when the brethren chauffed them [warmed themselves] after matins. And the abbot demanded where Lambert was, and a brother said that he was gone to the cross by his commandment. He did do call him, and then the abbot and his monks required [asked] him to pardon them, but he not only pardoned them, but also preached to them the virtue of patience.

And after seven years Ferramund was put out, and St. Lambert was brought again by the commandment of Pepin to his first see [diocese, bishopric], and there he shone by word and by ensample in all virtue.

Then two wicked men addressed them against him and began to rebuke and blame him strongly, and the friends of the same bishop slew them.

Lambertus is said of lampos in Greek, which is as much to say as burning, and of thus, that is incense. That is to say incense burning to God. Or he may be said of lampas, a lamp, which giveth light in the church. He was incense burning to God by distress of conscience, and for to keep obedience. And he was light in the church by noble predication, and by ensample of good operation.

In that time Lambert began to blame strongly Pepin, for a common woman that he held. And Dodo, a cousin of them that had been slain, and brother of the same common woman, and officer of the king's hall, assembled a great fellowship and assieged all about the bishop's place, and would avenge the death of his cousins on St. Lambert. And when a child came to St. Lambert, which was in his prayers, and told him thereof, he, trusting well in our Lord, thought he should well vanquish them, and took a sword. And when he had remembered himself he threw away his sword, and judged himself better to vanquish in suffering of death, than to leye [put] his holy hands in the blood of the felons. And this holy man warned his people that they should confess their sins, and suffer patiently death. And anon the felons came upon them, and slew forthwith St. Lambert whom they found in orison and prayer. And when they

were gone, some of his men that escaped, bare the body to the cathedral church secretly by water in a boat, and buried it with great heaviness of them of the city, in the year of our Lord four hundred and ten.

The [iconography of St. Lambert](#) is available at the [Christian iconography website](#).

For other saints, see the [index to this Golden Legend website](#).

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