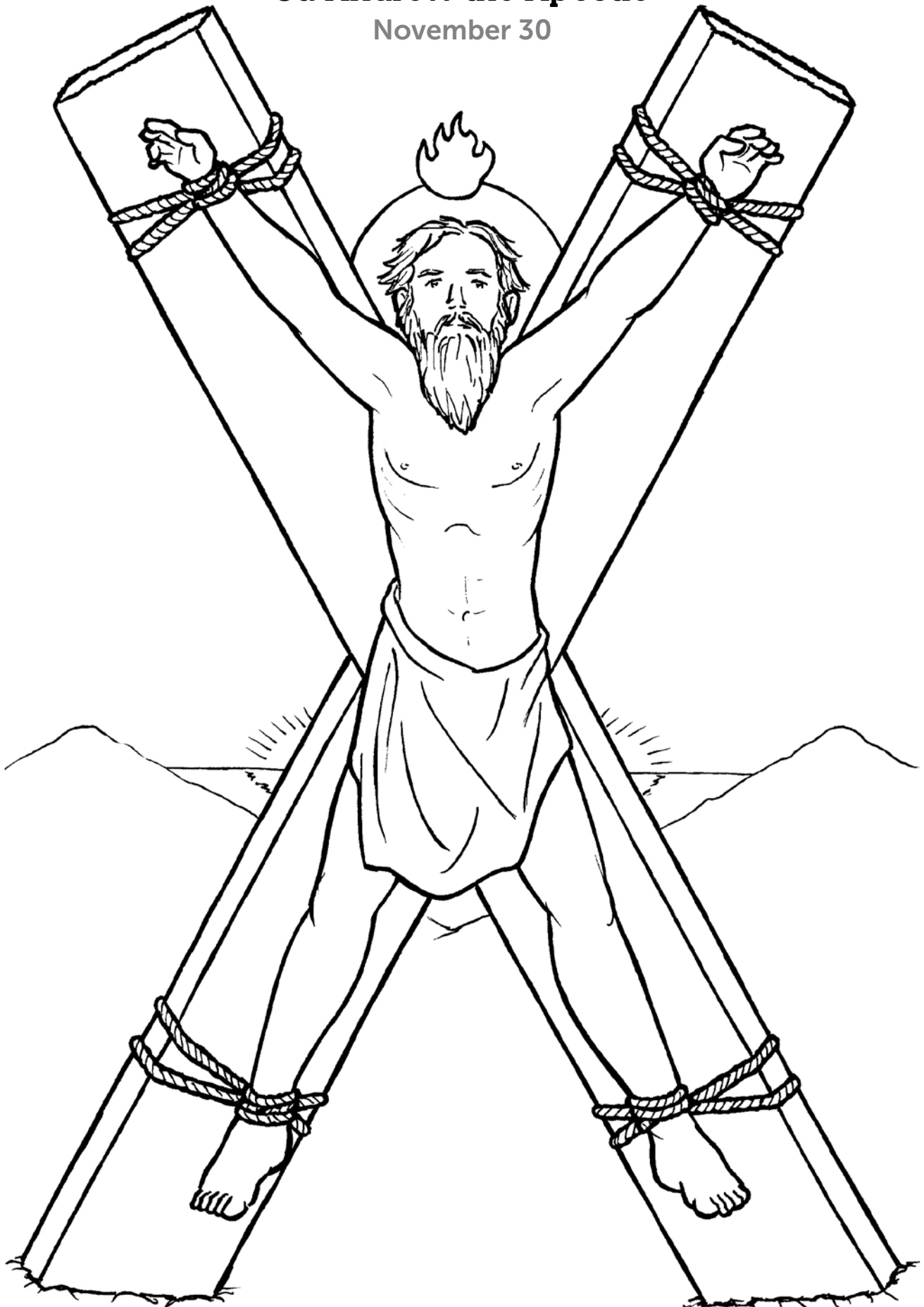


St. Andrew the Apostle

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Biblical figure

Two men were with John the Baptist when he pointed to a man walking by and said, "Behold the Lamb of God." One of these men was Andrew, who looked with wonder and curiosity at the man John the Baptist had pointed out. What sort of man was a lamb, let alone God's lamb? This man must be pure and innocent, Andrew thought, and able to take away the sins of many. Andrew and his companion decided that they must follow this man and find out who he was.

The man, who was Jesus, turned around and saw that the two men were following Him. He asked, "What are you looking for?"

At first, Andrew and the other disciple did not know what to say, but then they replied, "Teacher, where are you staying?"

"Come, and you will see," was Jesus' reply. And so Andrew and the other man spent the rest of the day talking to Jesus.

Andrew's heart was on fire after his time with Jesus. He rushed to find his brother Simon and exclaimed to him, "We have found the Messiah." He brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus gave Simon a new name: Peter. One day, Peter would become the first pope.

Later, Andrew and Peter were fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus called to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately, both brothers dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus as His disciples. Andrew felt in his heart that he was willing to leave everything to follow Jesus, His new Master, the Lamb of God.

Andrew became one of the Twelve Apostles. After Jesus' Ascension, Andrew traveled far and wide to share the love of Jesus and to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Tradition says that Andrew preached the Gospel of Jesus in Greece and Asia Minor. For his preaching, he was bound by ropes and crucified on an X-shaped cross, becoming a glorious martyr for the Faith. Andrew is honored as the first Apostle Jesus called to follow Him.

St. Andrew, help me to answer Jesus' call!