



Desiring the supernal glory of God, thou didst toil for Him to the end of thine earthly life; and, having laboured well, thou didst increase the talent He entrusted to thy care, being faithful to Christ our God, Whom do thou earnestly entreat, that we be saved who hymn thee, O glorious King David.

Saint David the Builder

January 26th

In 1080 the Turks invaded Georgia and looted and burned the capitol, Kutaisi. Nine years later, at the age of 16, David Agmashenebeli (*David the Builder*) became the King of Georgia. He built and united Georgia during his reign from 1089 to 1125. He moved the capitol to Tblisi and expelled the Turks. He built the Gelati Monastery, which he is holding in this icon. The Gelati Monastery became a center for learning in both arts and sciences and houses his tomb. St. David re-established the Orthodox Church in Georgia at the center of its national identity and culture, building many churches and monasteries. As a result, this began Georgia's golden age. Democracy, arts and sciences all flourished.