

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

- Tuesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31

Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.

Now you are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the Church to be, first, Apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all Apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5

We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful song. ***R/.***

Know that the Lord is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends. ***R/.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him; bless his name. ***R/.***

For he is good, the Lord,
whose kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations. ***R/.***



Gospel: John 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

OR

Luke 2:33-35

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Reflection

Behold, your mother. (John 19:27)

Television shows and movies love to portray characters who experience great challenges and tragedies but who find a way to keep going and reach goals that seemed unimaginable. Stories like these can be very inspiring.

Today's feast of Our Lady of Sorrows can connect with us in the same way. As a young woman, Mary agreed to be mother to the Son of God. From the moment she accepted this mission, she endured great hardship and sorrow but succeeded in fulfilling all that God had planned for her to do.

It's hard to imagine how painful her experience must have been, especially as she watched her only son endure torture and the agony of crucifixion. After his death and resurrection, no one would have blamed her if she had decided to go back home to her relatives to rest and heal her wounded soul. But she didn't do that. Instead, she stayed with the disciples. She was there when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles at Pentecost, and she became a vital part of the new Church the Spirit brought to life.

Mary's role after Jesus' resurrection reflects Paul's words in today's first reading: "All the parts of the body, though many, are one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12). Each of us is an integral part of the body of Christ. We all have gifts and talents that build up the Church. But like Mary, we also experience times of pain, doubt, and suffering. Reflecting on Mary's reaction to her sufferings can encourage us to stay close to the Lord through them all.

Mary encountered many sorrows, but she never stopped caring for the people around her, the people who would one day make up the Church.

Today, as we meditate on Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows, we can also honor her for continuing to say yes to God despite the difficulties she faced — and the difficulties that were still awaiting her. We can also make a commitment to imitate Mary while undergoing our own sufferings and continue to care for the people around us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, accompany me in my sufferings and help me be more like you.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.