

*St. Philip the Apostle*  
Roman Catholic Church

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**

-- Thursday of the Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Jose Cosme**

**First Reading: Revelation 5:1-10**

I, John, saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals."

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the seven spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn:

"Worthy are you to receive the scroll and break open its seals, for you were slain and with your Blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth."

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 9**

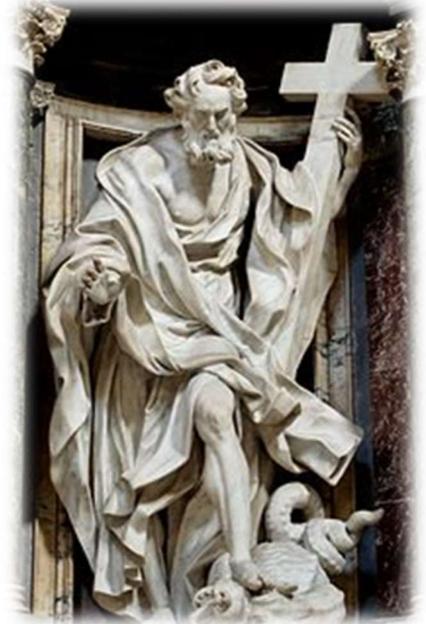
***The Lamb has made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God.***

Sing to the Lord a new song  
of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in their maker,  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their king. **R/.**

Let them praise his name in the festive dance,  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord loves his people,  
and he adorns the lowly with victory. **R/.**



Let the faithful exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy upon their couches;  
Let the high praises of God be in their throats.  
This is the glory of all his faithful. Alleluia. *R/.*

### **Gospel: Luke 19:41-44**

As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

### **Reflection**

*He saw the city and wept over it. (Luke 19:41)*

It's clear why Jesus is weeping: he knows what will happen to Jerusalem in the near future. In AD 70, the Roman general Titus and his legions will besiege the city. In the horrific days that follow, many of its citizens will starve to death. Then the Romans will kill nearly everyone else and destroy the Jewish Temple. Knowing Jerusalem's fate must have broken Jesus' heart!

And yet the very fact that Jesus is weeping should give us some comfort because his tears are a sign of his compassion. He's not condemning Jerusalem; he's lamenting over it. He sees that this destruction will be the result of the people's sin and their rejection of him and the prophets God had sent. He knows it will happen, but he still decides to go to the cross and offer his life for his people. He refuses to abandon them. Despite their sin, he still wants to save them — and the whole world besides.

Jesus never abandons us either. But he certainly weeps for our sins because he sees the needless suffering they cause us. He sees that they keep us from our purpose in life, which is to know and serve him. He came to earth, died, and rose for us so that we could be rid of those sins and live the abundant life he intended for us (John 10:10). Even when we stray, he waits patiently for us to return to him.

Jesus doesn't condemn anyone — and he won't condemn you (John 3:17). He wants to save you. In fact, he has provided a way for you to experience that salvation more and more deeply — through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So don't let your sins burden you. Take them to Confession! If you haven't been for a while and you're nervous about going, just remember the image of Jesus weeping. That's how much he cares about you. That's how much he wants to help you.

Once you've been absolved of your sins and have said your penance, stay silent for a moment or two. Now picture Jesus again. Imagine him smiling or even laughing with joy. He is delighted that you, his beloved son or daughter, have come to receive his mercy!

*Jesus, thank you for your boundless love and mercy.*

### **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.