

*St. Philip the Apostle*  
Roman Catholic Church

**Friday, January 8, 2021**

-- Fr Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Special Intention of Ginny & Bob Anspach***

**First Reading: 1 John 5:5-13**

Beloved: Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and Blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and Blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three who testify, the Spirit, the water, and the Blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20**

***Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.***

Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion.

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you. *R/.*

He has granted peace in your borders;  
with the best of wheat he fills you.

He sends forth his command to the earth;  
swiftly runs his word! *R/.*

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.

He has not done thus for any other nation;  
his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia. *R/.*



## **Gospel: Luke 5:12-16**

It happened that there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where Jesus was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." And the leprosy left him immediately. Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The report about him spread all the more, and great crowds assembled to listen to him and to be cured of their ailments, but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.

## **Reflection**

*I do will it. Be made clean.* (Luke 5:13)

It's understandable to focus on physical healing when we read that Jesus healed everyone who came to him, including the leper in today's Gospel. We ourselves have needed healing at one time or another; we've all known and loved someone who needed it too. It's right and natural to pray for whatever physical healing someone may need, whether it's leprosy, a bad cold, or stage-four lung cancer.

But in addition to physical ailments, every one of us suffers from a spiritual disease: sin. It's like a leprosy of the spirit. It numbs our consciences, it makes us feel isolated from God and from other people, and it can spread like wildfire. Sin produces outward "sores" like angry outbursts or broken relationships as well as inward ones: guilt, shame, fear, and a kind of paralysis that keeps us from turning to the Lord for forgiveness and healing. If leprosy is a wasting disease of the body, sin is like a wasting disease of the spirit.

"Lord, if you wish . . ." (Luke 5:12). Jesus was emphatic. He absolutely, without question, willed that this man be made clean of the disease that filled him. And he always, absolutely and without question, wills healing and cleansing of sin for us. It's why he died on the cross! Every time we come to him and confess our sins, Jesus says, "I do will it. Be made clean" (Luke 5:13). He wants us to be made pure and untainted by habits of sin and the paralysis and isolation sin generates.

Read again what this poor man did: he "fell prostrate" — he humbled himself before Jesus (Luke 5:12). His mind was focused wholly on the power and desires of Jesus. So kneel before Jesus today, whether in prayer or in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and tell him, "Lord, you know my sins. Will you make me clean?" As you do, believe that his answer to you will be the same one he gave the leper. His loving desire for you is holiness and freedom from sin. Jesus says to you today, "I do will your healing. Be made clean."

*Jesus, I believe that you can free me of my sins. Heal and cleanse me just as you healed the leper.*

## **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.