

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Tuesday, January 12, 2021

-- Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Theresa Ann Hauck***

First Reading: Hebrews 2:5-12

It was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. Instead, someone has testified somewhere: *What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor, subjecting all things under his feet.*

In "subjecting" all things to him, he left nothing not "subject to him." Yet at present we do not see "all things subject to him," but we do see Jesus "crowned with glory and honor" because he suffered death, he who "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers" saying: *I will proclaim your name to my brethren, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9

You have given your Son rule over the works of your hands.

O Lord, our Lord,

how glorious is your name over all the earth!

What is man that you should be mindful of him,

or the son of man that you should care for him? ***R/.***

You have made him little less than the angels,
and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him rule over the works of your hands,
putting all things under his feet. ***R/.***

All sheep and oxen,

yes, and the beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,

and whatever swims the paths of the seas. *R/.*

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Reflection

I know who you are! (Mark 1:24)

Zoopharmacognosy, an emerging field of science, is a big word that conveys a simple concept. It's the study of how some animals seem to know exactly what they need to be healed when they are ailing. It's why cats will eat grass when they have an upset stomach or why pregnant African elephants seek out a particular forget-me-not tree to help induce labor. Some animals will travel long distances to find just the right leaves, seeds, roots, or minerals that their bodies need.

Scientists debate why we humans don't exhibit this ability as fully as some animal species, but we have something even better: the desire to seek out God.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, we see this desire playing out. People traveled far and wide to seek physical and spiritual healing from Christ. Some even broke political and social standards to come to him. In today's reading, we read about a demon-possessed person presenting himself before Jesus for deliverance — even as the demon inside of him raged against the Lord.

For animals, this is a matter of instinct, but for us, it's a matter of relationship. The more we get to know Jesus and the love he has for us, the more convinced we are that he offers us exactly what we need — every day. Not only do we come to believe that he has the power to heal our hurts, but we also trust that he can give us the wisdom and grace we need to live a holy life. We become convinced that staying close to him and following his commandments is the best way to avoid even getting sick in the first place — at least spiritually.

So how can we get into the habit of seeking Jesus? By seeking Jesus! If you take time to turn to him at different points in the day, you'll eventually start to hear him prompting you and guiding you. You'll feel prompted to stop and pray. To avoid a particular path of sin. To follow a path you've never tried before.

Listen. Every day, listen. Then follow the promptings you think Jesus is giving you. He's not testing you or playing games with you. He wants you to find his healing and his love!

Come, Holy Spirit! Teach me how to come to Jesus today and to listen to his voice.

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.