

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Friday, April 30, 2021

- Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter
- Feast of St. Pius V, Pope
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Dorothy & Thomas Purcell***

First Reading: Acts 13:26-33

When Paul came to Antioch in Pisidia, he said in the synagogue: "My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*"

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11

You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.

"I myself have set up my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;
this day I have begotten you." ***R/.***

"Ask of me and I will give you
the nations for an inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

You shall rule them with an iron rod;
you shall shatter them like an earthen dish." ***R/.***

And now, O kings, give heed;
take warning, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before him;

with trembling rejoice. *R/.*

Gospel: John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Reflection

I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14:6)

Jesus is the *way*. He is the perfect Son of the Father who did only what the Father told him to do. He didn’t cling to his own vision of the way his life should go. In this, he showed us the way to live. He loved the Father with complete trust. He knew that he was in his Father’s hands, and it was there that he rested. Now ascended to heaven, Jesus calls us to live the way he lived — in trust and surrender to our Father’s call. He will teach us, guide us, mold us, and make us into his children. He will show us how to rest in his presence, just as Jesus did.

Jesus is the *truth*. Every word he spoke was the truth. When he made a promise, it was fulfilled. Every miracle he performed, every parable he told, every sermon he preached demonstrates the love our heavenly Father has for us and the way he wants us to live in love with each other. Everything that Jesus did as he walked the earth, as well as all that he does now as he works in and through his Church, is a proclamation of this love. This truth is the foundation for the whole of creation — it is the foundation for each of our lives.

Jesus is the *life*. To know Jesus is to be fully alive because he has given us a share in his own divine life. Whenever we receive Communion, we receive this divine life into our own fallen hearts. Imagine: Jesus has chosen to live in us. He has chosen to place his own life in our hearts and to make that life the wellspring of our own lives. He comes to satisfy our deepest needs and to rejoice with us at every good gift. He comes to teach us, to fill us, and to guide us.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. In him, we lack nothing. He has given us so much more than pardon for our sins. He has given us a whole new way of living, a life in union with his heavenly Father. Don’t be afraid to reach out and grasp it today!

Jesus, I love you. Open my eyes to see and know you more. Open my heart to receive your life more deeply today!

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.