

*St. Philip the Apostle*  
Roman Catholic Church



**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

-- Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter

-- Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

**First Reading: Acts 13:44-52**

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.*"

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4**

***All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.***

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm. *R/.*

The Lord has made his salvation known:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel. *R/.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise. *R/.*

## **Gospel: John 14:7-14**

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to Jesus, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

## **Reflection**

*Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these. (John 14:12)*

In C. S. Lewis' novel *The Great Divorce*, a man finds himself in the afterlife journeying toward heaven. Along the way, he encounters a parade of angels and young people singing, dancing, and tossing flowers in front of a beautiful woman named Sarah. The man is surprised to learn that Sarah was just an ordinary woman on earth. She is surrounded by the many young people whose lives were touched by her humble, faithful love for Christ.

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes the stunning promise that anyone who believes in him will be able to do even "greater" things than he did (John 14:12). We might think he means miracles like multiplying food and calming storms, but there are other "miracles" that are just as important: changing human hearts through our acts of love, just as Sarah did.

That is the greatest work Jesus ever did, and now he is telling us to do the same thing. Not necessarily by performing miracles, but by sharing the good news of his mercy with everyone around us.

But why did Jesus say that we will do "greater" works than he did (John 14:12)? Because unlike Jesus, we will have to overcome our sin and selfishness to do it. It isn't always easy to love as he did. Sometimes you have to say no to your desire to take care of only yourself. Sometimes you have to overcome the fear of stepping out in faith. And sometimes you have to care for someone you don't like all that much. But that's okay, because every victory you achieve over your sin makes you an even more moving witness to the Lord. It makes you capable of doing the greater works that Jesus promised.

Every one of us can be like Sarah — because every one of us is filled with the same Spirit. And that Spirit is powerful enough to change every person's heart.

*Lord, help me to be an instrument of your love and salvation 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.