

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Tuesday, April 27, 2021

-- Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Tom Nicklaus**

First Reading: Acts 11:19-26

Those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the Church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7

All you nations, praise the Lord.

His foundation upon the holy mountains
the Lord loves:

The gates of Zion,
more than any dwelling of Jacob.

Glorious things are said of you,
O city of God! **R/.**

I tell of Egypt and Babylon
among those who know the Lord;

Of Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia:
"This man was born there."

And of Zion they shall say:
"One and all were born in her;

And he who has established her
is the Most High Lord." **R/.**

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled:

“This man was born there.”

And all shall sing, in their festive dance:

“My home is within you.” *R/.*

Gospel: John 10:22-30

The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

Reflection

If you are the Christ, tell us plainly. (John 10:24)

The Jews of Jesus’ time had an idea of what their Messiah would do when he showed up. He would expel their foreign occupiers, rule as king, and bring peace to the whole world. Sounds great, right? No wonder the Jewish leaders in today’s Gospel sounded so excited when they said to Jesus, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly” (John 10:24).

We can sense Jesus’ frustration in his answer. They had seen his words and actions. He had made it pretty obvious that, yes, he was the Messiah. Yet they still didn’t see what was right in front of them.

Jesus was not what these Jews expected. They were hoping for a warrior, and instead, they got a Messiah who spoke about turning the other cheek (Luke 6:29). They were hoping for a military leader who would organize a revolt against Rome. Instead, Jesus poured his time into teaching and healing the poor, the sick, and the rejected. Instead of bringing peace, Jesus seemed to be stirring up all kinds of controversy.

Yet there were some who saw beneath the surface of this humble preacher. Jesus called these followers his “sheep” who hear his voice and trust in his way of leadership (John 10:27). He had changed their lives, and they became committed to him. Over time, they came to realize that the kingdom Jesus was preaching about was not constrained by ethnicity or borders or the politics of the time. In his kingdom, everyone was welcome; everyone was invited to live as he did — in mercy, humility, and self-sacrifice.

God has a way of surprising us with his generosity, and Jesus is the ultimate expression of that generosity. He is a Savior far beyond what any of us could wish for or deserve. He is the visible image of the invisible God, a mystery that he expresses in today’s Gospel when he says, “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30). He offers us something more precious than what any worldly leader can: unfailing love, healing for our wounded souls, and a life in eternity with God.

Jesus, I believe that you are the Messiah of God. Teach me to be like you.

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.