

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Monday, May 3, 2021

-- Monday of the Fifth Week of Easter

-- Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

Their message goes out through all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day pours out the word to day;
and night to night imparts knowledge. *R/.*

Not a word nor a discourse
whose voice is not heard;
Through all the earth their voice resounds,
and to the ends of the world, their message. *R/.*

Gospel: John 14:6-14

Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 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 him, "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

He appeared to me. (1 Corinthians 15:8)

We don't know much about these two apostles, whose feast we celebrate today. We know that Philip came from Bethsaida, the hometown of Peter and Andrew. He appears a few times in the Gospels, such as when he leads Nathaniel to Jesus and when he asks Jesus to show them the Father (John 1:43-46; 14:8). We know even less about St. James, son of Alphaeus. He is believed to have come from Cana and is sometimes called James the Lesser, to distinguish him from James, son of Zebedee.

But we do know that both Philip and James saw the risen Jesus. Like St. Paul, in our first reading, they could say, “He appeared to me” (1 Corinthians 15:8).

For these early Christians, seeing Jesus risen from the dead made all the difference. His resurrection validated everything that Jesus had said and done during his ministry. Because Jesus rose, they were not afraid to face opposition, persecution, even martyrdom. They knew that death would not have the final word — not for Jesus and not for them.

But we live two thousand years after Jesus. How can we have this same confidence in the Lord and assurance of eternal life? As it did for Philip and James, it begins with an encounter with the risen Jesus.

Even now, Jesus is still “appearing” to people. We won't see him physically the way Philip and James did. And we probably won't see a flashing light as Paul did (Acts 9:3). But we can know, deep within our hearts, that Jesus is real, that he is with us, that he is risen.

We will recognize his presence as he calms our hearts and fills us with peace. We will become convinced that he is risen as we experience him helping us overcome habits of sin and teaching us to love our neighbors. We will be assured that he knows and loves us as he answers our prayers or reminds us of just the right Scripture passage to help us face our circumstances.

Jesus longs for every believer to say, “He appeared to me” (1 Corinthians 15:8). Today, let him reveal himself to you.

Jesus, help me to see you 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.