

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church

Saturday, September 17, 2022

-- Saturday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

-- Memorial of St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49

Brothers and sisters: Someone may say, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come back?" You fool! What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one.

So, too, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being," the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 56:10-12, 13-14

I will walk in the presence of God, in the light of the living.

Now I know that God is with me.

In God, in whose promise I glory,
in God I trust without fear;
what can flesh do against me? *R/.*

I am bound, O God, by vows to you;
your thank offerings I will fulfill.
For you have rescued me from death,
my feet, too, from stumbling;
that I may walk before God in the light of the living. *R/.*

Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying



this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that they may look but not see, and hear but not understand."

"This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance."

Reflection

The first man, Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)

God certainly had lofty plans for men and women! Just think about our first parents. When God breathed life into Adam, he rose from the dust of the ground to take his place as the crown of all creation. But we know what happened: our hero stumbled. He chose independence from God, and that choice initiated a spiral of brokenness and sin for all his descendants.

Into this marred world God sent a new hero who did not falter. Instead of passing on sin as Adam did, Jesus passed on divine life. As St. Paul says in today's first reading, Jesus, "the last Adam," became a "life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). When he rose from the dead, Jesus became the first of many human bodies to rise in glory. His resurrection shows us that our bodies are more than a delivery system for our souls; they have eternal value.

This hope of bodily resurrection is the foundation of our whole faith. Christianity is more than a moral code followed by the hope of eternal rest for our disembodied souls. Jesus' body, the same body that he had in his earthly life, is now at his Father's side. And in Christ, our bodies too will be with him on the last day. Yes, the eyes you are reading with and the hands that are holding this magazine have a heavenly destiny!

So join with God in taking the long view. Before creation, he had a plan for you that extends past your fleeting natural life. You were made to be with him, transformed in body and soul, forever.

Today, take some time to lift your mind above the hustle and bustle of daily life. Try to imagine what it will be like to be glorified in heaven, freed from weakness, fear, self-interest, decay, and even time and space. As you do, ask God to fill you with hope — a hope that will sustain you in this life and help you look forward eagerly to the next.

Jesus, help me to live in hope of the glorious life that awaits me.

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.