

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Saturday, September 3, 2022

- Saturday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of St. Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:6-15

Brothers and sisters: Learn from myself and Apollos not to go beyond what is written, so that none of you will be inflated with pride in favor of one person over against another. Who confers distinction upon you? What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it? You are already satisfied; you have already grown rich; you have become kings without us! Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we also might become kings with you.

For as I see it, God has exhibited us Apostles as the last of all, like people sentenced to death, since we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and men alike. We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clad and roughly treated, we wander about homeless and we toil, working with our own hands. When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently. We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all, to this very moment.

I am writing you this not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:17-18, 19-20, 21

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth. ***R/.***

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him,
he hears their cry and saves them.

The Lord keeps all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy. ***R/.***

May my mouth speak the praise of the Lord,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 6:1-5

While Jesus was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them. Some Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Have you not read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry? How he went into the house of God, took the bread of offering, which only the priests could lawfully eat, ate of it, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

Reflection

Have you not read what David did when he [was] . . . hungry? (Luke 6:3)

An author once wrote that as a teenager, he had stolen some food because he was poor and hungry. When he went to Confession, the priest treated him with compassion. After offering him absolution, he told the boy that he — the priest — needed to repent for failing to provide for the boy's needs.

Contrast this priest's attitude with the Pharisees in today's Gospel. The disciples were hungry, but these religious leaders could see only that they were violating the Sabbath. There was no sense of compassion. Jesus tried to reorient their thinking by reminding them that the sabbath rest had been broken in the past in order to provide for David and his companions (Luke 6:3-4; see 1 Samuel 21:2-7). Clearly, the call to satisfy hunger takes precedence over the call to rest from all work on the seventh day.

We can probably relate to these Pharisees' confusion or sense of indignation when we see people who aren't behaving in the way we think they should. Maybe someone doesn't act or dress appropriately at Mass. Maybe we think someone at work is just flaunting the rules. Or perhaps another person expresses opinions that go against our own views.

When this happens, it can be tempting to become critical and judgmental. But just as he did with those Pharisees, Jesus wants to reorient our thinking. Instead of focusing on what a person said or did, he invites us to think about their hearts. They could be working through difficult questions of faith or dealing with challenging life circumstances. No matter the reason, Jesus wants us to welcome everyone and treat them as he would.

Is there a person whose actions or comments irritate or upset you? Today, ask the Lord for the grace and compassion to see them with his eyes. Perhaps he wants you to reach out and accompany them on their faith journey. As you allow the Lord to reorient your thinking, he may even use you to draw that person closer to himself!

Lord, help me take on your mind and heart for all people.

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.