

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Tuesday, September 20, 2022

- Tuesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, Paul Chöng Ha-Sang, and Companions, Martyrs
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Linda Losito**

First Reading: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13

Like a stream is the king's heart in the hand of the Lord; wherever it pleases him, he directs it.

All the ways of a man may be right in his own eyes, but it is the Lord who proves hearts.

To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Haughty eyes and a proud heart – the tillage of the wicked is sin.

The plans of the diligent are sure of profit, but all rash haste leads certainly to poverty.

Whoever makes a fortune by a lying tongue is chasing a bubble over deadly snares.

The soul of the wicked man desires evil; his neighbor finds no pity in his eyes.

When the arrogant man is punished, the simple are the wiser; when the wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.

The just man appraises the house of the wicked: there is one who brings down the wicked to ruin.

He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will himself also call and not be heard.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44

Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord. ***R/.***

Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. ***R/.***

The way of truth I have chosen;
I have set your ordinances before me. ***R/.***

Give me discernment, that I may observe your law
and keep it with all my heart. ***R/.***

Lead me in the path of your commands,
for in it I delight. ***R/.***

And I will keep your law continually,
forever and ever. *R/.*

Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

Reflection

My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it. (Luke 8:21)

In yesterday's Gospel reading, Jesus told us to take care how we hear (Luke 8:18). Today, Jesus tells the people that his family members are the ones who hear and act on his word. Why was it so important for Jesus to keep saying this? Because when we listen to and obey the Lord, we participate, even if only in some small way, in his plan to redeem the world.

The best example of this is, ironically, Jesus' closest blood relative, Mary. When the word of God came to her through the angel Gabriel, it found fertile soil in her heart. Mary was already a person of deep prayer who was also steeped in the Hebrew Scriptures. So when she heard the startling news that would turn her life upside down, she did not react with hardness, anger, or self-pity. Instead, she embodied the kind of discipleship that God desires: "I am the handmaid of the Lord," she told the angel. "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Not only did Mary hear the word of God, but she also acted on it immediately. Luke tells us that after the angel left her, Mary went "in haste" to her cousin Elizabeth, whose own miraculous pregnancy the angel had just announced (Luke 1:39). And when Joseph was told in a dream to take the baby Jesus to Egypt (2:15-18), she heard it as God's word for her family and went, though it must have been difficult to leave her familiar surroundings behind and live in a foreign land. And yet even in these difficult circumstances, Mary knew that her obedience was bearing fruit. God's plan for redeeming humankind was unfolding right before her eyes in the child she loved and cared for.

Through your baptism, you are already part of God's family. But you can deepen your relationship with your heavenly Father by imitating your mother, Mary. Immerse yourself in prayer and Scripture, as she did, so that you can hear God when he is speaking to you. Then act on what you hear. Know that even when you can't see the consequences of your actions, you are in some way bearing Christ to the world as Mary did.

Lord Jesus, give me the grace to hear your word and act on it.

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.