

# *St. Philip the Apostle*

## Roman Catholic Church



**Friday, May 5, 2023**

-- Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Anna Melendez***

### **First Reading: Acts 13:26-33**

When Paul came to Antioch in Pisidia, he said in the synagogue: "My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*"

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11**

***You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.***

"I myself have set up my king  
on Zion, my holy mountain."

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day I have begotten you." ***R/.***

"Ask of me and I will give you  
the nations for an inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

You shall rule them with an iron rod;  
you shall shatter them like an earthen dish." ***R/.***

And now, O kings, give heed;  
take warning, you rulers of the earth.  
Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before him;  
with trembling rejoice. ***R/.***

### **Gospel: John 14:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you

that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

## Reflection

*How can we know the way? (John 14:5)*

Imagine you are hiking in the mountains with an experienced guide. There are lots of trees, and the trail is faint at times. But your guide knows the way, so you feel secure with him. Then all of a sudden, he says, "I'm going on ahead to set up camp. Just follow the trail, and everything will be great." Suddenly, panic rises up in you: "Wait, what? You can't leave me; I don't know the way!"

Today's Gospel features a similar scene: Jesus has told the disciples he's going away, and the apostles begin to panic — Wait, what? Then Thomas speaks for all of them: "How can we know the way?" (John 14:5).

Doesn't Thomas sound like us? Here we are, trying to follow Jesus, but since we don't see him, it can be hard for us to feel that we're on the right path.

Maybe we can take Jesus' words to Thomas as his answer to us as well: "I am the way" (John 14:6). If Jesus himself is the way — the path — then we can be confident that we're on track when we are trying to follow the example he left for us.

For example, Jesus lived a life of sacrifice and service. So if you ever feel unsure of which way you should go, you can start by asking which is the way of greater self-giving. It can be hard to give up that quiet moment you had been looking forward to so that you can care for someone else, but it's quite possible that the Spirit is inviting you to follow Jesus' way. You can be sure that every time you take him up on his invitation, your heart will change a little more until Jesus' way becomes almost second nature to you.

Or think of how Jesus related to other people. He saw each of them, even his enemies, as children beloved by his heavenly Father. He saw through their selfishness or anger or envy and recognized the hurt they were carrying and their need to encounter God's love. Is there someone that you have a hard time loving? You can follow Jesus' way by remembering God's love for them. Then you can ask the Spirit to make you more like Christ by softening your heart toward them.

How can we know the way? There is one simple answer to this question: Jesus is the way. Imitate him.

*Jesus, you are my way. Help me to keep my eyes fixed on 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.