

Daily Prayer

St Philip and St James

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys. We begin by saying

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

The First Reading

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'

Isaiah 30.18-21

The Psalm

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes ♦
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding and I shall keep your law; ♦
I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, ♦
for therein is my delight.

Incline my heart to your testimonies ♦
and not to unjust gain. [R]

Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities; ♦
O give me life in your ways.

Confirm to your servant your promise, ♦
which stands for all who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, ♦
because your judgements are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; ♦
in your righteousness give me life.

Psalm 119.33-40

The Gospel Reading

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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 say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 14.6-14

In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle

The Canticle ~ A Song of the New Creation

I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.

'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

'I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,

'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'

Isaiah 43.15, 16, 18, 19, 20c, 21

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God and
continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

The Intercessions

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.
Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
you gave to your apostles Philip and James
grace and strength to bear witness to the truth.
Grant that we, mindful of their victory of faith,
may glorify in life and death the name of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

We conclude

May the risen Christ grant us the joy of eternal life.

Amen.

St Philip and St James

Apostles—Holy Day

Philip is named in the first three Gospels whenever they list the twelve apostles, but he plays no active role and has no voice in their accounts. This changes in the Fourth Gospel, which presents Philip as a leading figure in the circle of disciples. He was the third person to be specially called by Jesus, and he in turn brought his friend Nathanael into the company of the Lord. In John's account of the feeding of the five thousand, Philip voices doubts felt by the other disciples, and his questions set the stage for Jesus to demonstrate his power. Likewise at the Last Supper, Philip's remarks help to make the Farewell Discourses a teaching dialogue between Master and disciples. A later tradition of the Church says that Philip eventually settled in Asia Minor, where he lived to a ripe old age.

James, the other apostle we commemorate today, is an even more shadowy figure. The Gospels list him as the son of Alphae'us, but he is usually known as James "the Less," to distinguish him from two other disciples of the same name. Mark's Gospel also mentions James "the Younger," who watched the crucifixion with his mother Mary and the other women; he is traditionally identified with the apostle we honour today.

Philip and James are remembered together because of an accident of ecclesiastical history. In the sixth century the Church of Rome acquired some relics of James and placed them in a reliquary which already held some remains of Philip. This reliquary was placed in a new church, which was dedicated jointly to the two Apostles on May first in the year 560.

Credits:

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Biographical Information: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod, Anglican Church of Canada

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

office@theredeemer.ca

www.TheRedeemer.ca

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO

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