

October 11th

Saint PHILIP, deacon.

Optional memorial

Philip was one of those "seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3) who were chosen to perform the function of serving at table in the primitive community of Jerusalem. We know from the Acts of the Apostles that he was also entrusted with the ministry of the Word: he proclaimed Christ in Samaria and baptized Simon Magus, and he baptized the Ethiopian servant of Queen Candace, on the road leading to Hebron. He also proclaimed the Gospel in the coastal cities of Palestine.

With Philip the Good News will leave Jerusalem and spread "from place to place," reaching especially Samaria, before moving on to the pagans. This proclamation, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit and accompanied by miracles, is really a continuation of the salvific mission of Christ, and joy is the sign of its authenticity (Acts 8: 8, 8: 39).

As living members of the Church, we, like Philip, are to continue the work of Christ in the world, guided by the Spirit, who reveals the life-giving presence of the Risen Lord, fount of joy for all people.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Acts 8: 5

Thus Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them.

COLLECT

Lord, who instruct us by the Old and New Testaments, grant us, through the intercession of St. Philip the Deacon, to know you better and to walk before you according to the Gospel, doing good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Acts of the apostles 8: 26-40

Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, "Get up and head south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route." So he got up and set out. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, 8 that is, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury, who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home. Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join up with that chariot."

Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" So he invited Philip to get in and sit with him. This was the scripture passage he was reading:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will tell of his posterity? For his life is taken from the earth."

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply, "I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this? About himself, or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him. As they traveled along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water. What is to prevent my being baptized?" Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but continued on his way rejoicing.

Philip came to Azotus, and went about proclaiming the good news to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 9-10a (R. Matt 28: 19)

R. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

1. O sing a new song to the LORD;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
O sing to the LORD; bless his name.

2. Proclaim his salvation day by day.
Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.

3. Give the LORD, you families of peoples,
give the LORD glory and power;
give the LORD the glory of his name.

4. Worship the LORD in holy splendor.
O tremble before him, all the earth.
Say to the nations, "The LORD is king."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mark 16: 15

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according Saint Matthew 28: 18-20

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, who through the working of the Holy Spirit chose St. Philip and numbered him among the deacons, on this day when he intercedes for us, bestow on us your servants the blessing of your Holy Spirit so that we may worthily celebrate this Eucharist.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Matt 28: 19

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, grant that we, who have been nourished by your Body and Precious Blood, through the power of this sacrament, may proclaim by our lives the mystery we celebrate.
Through Christ our Lord.