

Reading for the Feast of Saints Philip and James

3rd May 2024

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Paul lists the original witnesses of the resurrection, including himself

Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast — unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Responsorial: Psalm 18: 2-5

R./: Their message goes out through all the earth.

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message. (R./)

No speech, no word, no voice is heard
yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world. (R./)

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:6,9

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Lord.
Philip, to have seen me is to have seen the Father.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:6-14

Jesus tells Philip, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me."

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.

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.

Short reflection on the reading for today

The words of Philip to Jesus in today's gospel, "Lord, let us see the Father and we shall be satisfied," might well resonate with us. Perhaps we too sense that we will really only be satisfied when we see God, or, in other words, when we are in heaven. Yet Jesus replies to Philip that God the Father whom he longs to see he already sees in Jesus, "to have seen me is to have seen the Father." In those words, Jesus is letting us all know that he has already begun to satisfy our deepest longings, our longing for God.

Jesus has shown us the face of God in himself, in his life, death and resurrection. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus we will already begin to see the face of God and the heaven for which we long will become a present reality, to some extent. Jesus is reminding Philip and all of us that we have already been given a great deal. What we need to do is to appreciate what we have been given, to experience the presence of God in the person of Jesus who is with us always until the end of time; he is with us in his word, in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and in each other.