

Reading for the Feast of St Philip Neri

May 26th 2026

First reading

1 Peter 1:10-16

‘They prophesied about the grace that was to be yours.

Therefore, being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace.’

Beloved: Concerning the salvation of souls, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours, searched and enquired carefully, enquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving, not themselves, but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. R1a

The Lord has made known his salvation.

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations.

He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 10:28-31

‘You will receive a hundredfold now in this time with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.’

At that time: Peter began to say to Jesus, ‘See, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers or sisters, or mother or father, or children, or lands for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brothers and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today's gospel reports Peter's frank question, "What about us? We have left everything and followed you." Peter and the others had given up a great deal to stay with Jesus. They wondered if it was really worth it all. We too have responded to his call, though not so radically as those first disciples, who left their livelihood and family for a very uncertain future. On moments of doubt we may be tempted to ask: "Is it worth the effort, this struggle to live by the gospel day in and day out."

The clear answer is, "yes, it is worth the effort." He promises that when we really give of ourselves for his sake, we will gain far more than we give up. We will enjoy a new experience of family, far beyond the confines of our blood family. We will find ourselves journeying with others who are trying like ourselves to live the Christian way. We will experience the warmth of the church, the community of the Lord's followers. This includes not only those of us still on our pilgrim way, but all who have passed beyond this life, including the saints, that "great cloud of witnesses."