

May 11, 2020-Monday, Fifth Week of Easter

Philip the Apostle

In John's Gospel, Philip is among the first disciples called by Jesus. Twice he provides an opportunity for Jesus to give a teaching:

- Jesus, wanting to feed the multitude, asks Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Philip replies that even 200 days' wages wouldn't be enough to feed all of the people. Jesus then miraculously feeds the people.
- At the Last Supper, Jesus says that if the apostles know him, they also know the Father. Philip says, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus replies, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Philip was a Galilean from Bethsaida, and is credited with introducing the future apostle, Nathanael/Bartholomew, to Jesus. Following Pentecost, he preached in Phrygia (modern-day Turkey), Greece, and Asia Minor. He was martyred about 80 A.D. in Phrygia. Philip was said to be married, and is buried with his daughters. He is the patron saint of pastry chefs.

At one time, today was the feast of St. Philip the Apostle. But now he shares his feast day with St. James the Lesser on May 3.

Jesus said: "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." (John 14:1-3)

The setting for this week's Gospel is the Last Supper. This is the last meal that Jesus will have with his disciples. Within 24 hours, he will be dead.

He is concerned about the problems his departure will cause for the disciples left behind. He tells them not to be troubled, and tries to reassure them.

Jesus has talked about "my Father's house" before—at the cleansing of the Temple. Then, "my Father's house" was the Temple.

Now Jesus is telling them that *he* is the new Temple, and there is room in his heart for every one of them. In his Father's house there are many dwelling places, and he is going to prepare a dwelling place for the disciples.

He could have spoken in abstract concepts, saying that in the Kingdom they would experience eschatological wholeness and bliss. But he spoke in very personal terms instead.

When I am troubled, the risen Lord reassures me in the same way. There is room in his heart for me too.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord