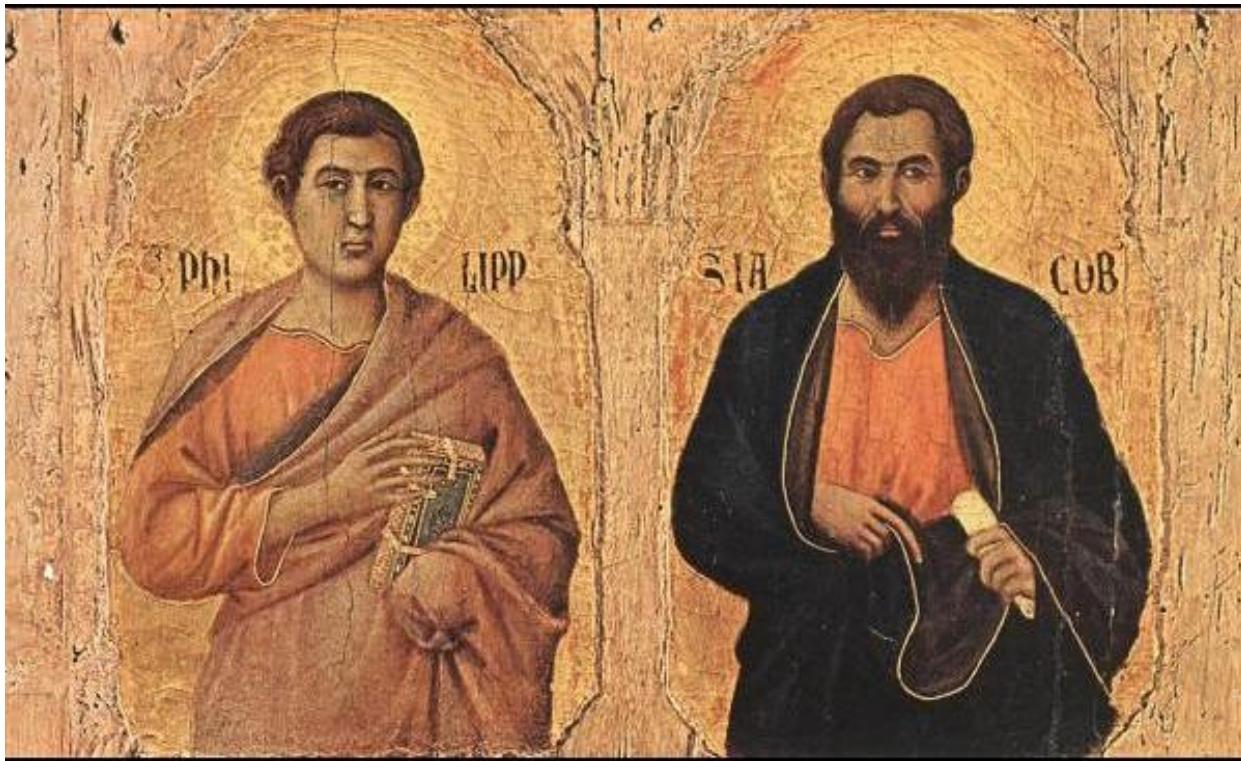


Saints Philip and James

Friday 1 May 2020



Philip and James appear in the lists of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels but are frequently confused with other saints who share the same names.

Philip has a more prominent role in John's gospel than in the others. He is the third apostle called by Jesus who then introduces his friend Nathanael. Philip is the spokesman for the other apostles and questions the capacity for feeding the five thousand and, at the Last Supper. He starts a kind of dialogue with Jesus which leads our Lord's Farewell Discourses.

James is said to be the son of Alphæus. He is often known as 'James the Less' to distinguish him. He may also be the 'James the Younger' who, in Mark's gospel, witnesses the Crucifixion.

Philip James are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560 AD.

- All Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymn is a Youtube link. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.

HYMN I the Lord of sea and sky

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.'

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All **Glory be to God in Heaven,**
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.

You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.

The Collect for Saints Philip and James

Almighty Father,
whom truly to know is eternal life:
teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life;
that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James,
and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. But you refused and said, 'No! We will flee upon horses'—therefore you shall flee! and, "We will ride upon swift steeds'—therefore your pursuers shall be swift! A thousand shall flee at the threat of one, at the threat of five you shall flee, until you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill. 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 30:15-21*

This is the Word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. *Ephesians 1:3-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ 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 14:1-14*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

How do you experience God? Where is He in your experience? Is He a distant entity residing in a place called heaven or is He here with us now? Do you ever (in whatever way) feel His presence? These are all quite profound questions and can be difficult to answer. We may listen to the testimony of someone describing their real certainty and experience of God's presence in their lives, and can perhaps feel inadequate, disappointed or even envious. We might turn to God in prayer and ask for some tangible evidence (some sign, some feeling, some kind of certainty).

Most of us will therefore relate to Philip's request in the second part of today's passage from John's gospel. He turns to Jesus as they gather around the table in the upper room that on that last night together, 'Show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' I imagine Jesus must have had one of those 'deep sigh' moments.

Philip has walked with Jesus for the three years of His earthly ministry. He has sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teachings. He has seen miraculous healing and been party to the feeding of thousands of people from scant resources ... and yet he still has not begun to understand the whole truth. It doesn't take much imagination to hear the frustration and exasperation in Jesus' voice as He turns to His friend and student: 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?'

The good news of the Gospel is that, in knowing Jesus Christ, we have come to know God. In hearing the teachings of Jesus we have heard of God's love for us because Jesus is 'in the Father and the Father is in me.' All that Jesus has said, all that he has done, he declares, are not his words or his works, but are those of 'the Father who dwells in me.'

Over and over again Jesus challenges us to believe that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him. He is the very 'sign' we have asked for (in whatever age) that we can believe. This passage, coming in the midst of the great series of 'I am ...' sayings is surely meant to be read as 'I am God!'

As they sit in the upper room, with the power and hate of the Jewish leaders and Roman oppressors filling the air around them, Jesus offers the disciples words of comfort, 'If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it'. Little do they know how much they will need his help in the coming days, months and years.

In the gospels, neither Philip nor James do much of note. James lived in the shadow of others and Philip comes across as more of a doubter than Thomas. Jesus would have understood what Isaiah was getting at in our Old Testament reading this morning when Isaiah says, 'The Lord waits to be gracious to you' James and Philip

were steady and not particularly ambitious to make their mark but they were faithful and, according to tradition, went on to live out Jesus' words 'The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do ...'

Tradition tells us that Philip took the Good News to Greece, Phrygia and Syria, and performed many works of healing. Through a miraculous healing and his preaching, Philip converted the wife of a proconsul, who was so enraged that he had him tortured and crucified upside-down.

According to Roman historian Eusebius, James (the less) became the bishop of Jerusalem but was killed by a Jewish mob when he was thrown from a parapet and clubbed to death. Christian art often depicts him holding the instrument of his martyrdom, the club.

It is evident, therefore, that Jesus can do amazing things with seemingly unpromising material (I certainly sometimes think of myself as such!). His final words in today's gospel are the clincher, 'I will do whatever you ask in my name.' If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.' We can all ask for more faith and faithfulness and for strength in these testing times. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

As we remember the apostles Philip and James we are reminded that God calls us all and sends us out into the world to be his hands and his feet.

We thank you, Loving Father, for the tasks you have entrusted to us. Help us to become more aware of our calling to serve you.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, we pray for the needs of the world, remembering particularly those regions where people's daily lives are tainted by violence and oppression, hunger and disease. Prosper the work of agencies and organisations whose work is to bring aid and relief especially at this time of global pandemic.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, as we remember Philip and the saints who spread the Good News to all nations, we thank you for all who teach especially those who help us to grow in faith. As we are locked out of our schools, colleges and churches, help us to use our

time wisely, finding ways to continue to learn and grow.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for the apostle James and the hidden and unknown work he did in service of the gospel. We thank you for all those who have an impact on our lives and who are working to maintain our wellbeing. We pray for all those who dedicate and risk their lives in the service of others.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, in a few moments of quiet, we call to mind those who are suffering in body mind and spirit, and all who mourn in these difficult times ...

Be present to us all and bring your healing and peace.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, we commend to your infinite care, and to the perfect peace of your kingdom, all who have died. Those known to us—Barrie Wild, Denise Davies, and others known to us ... those we hear about in daily news bulletins, and those known only to you. May they all receive the joys of life with you in heaven.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for providing us with the example of the lives of Philip and James, and we pray that, like them, we will have the courage and strength to face what is before us and not be overwhelmed.

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All **And also with you.**

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who has transformed those we remember today,
raise and strengthen you that you may transform the world;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Philip, St James, St Barnabas and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,**
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume**
 to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
 trusting in our own righteousness,
 but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
 so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
 whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
 so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
 and to drink his blood,
 that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
 and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
 and that we may evermore dwell in him,
 and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.