PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES YEARS A B C 1 May

OPENING HYMN

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee; yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth before us; thou didst feel its keenest woe; yet unfearing, persevering, to thy passion thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy; love with every passion blending pleasure that can never cloy; thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

PENITENTIAL RITE

We run the race set before us, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith.

Hebrews 12.1

COLLECT

Almighty God, 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. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 30.15–21 A reading from the book of the prophet 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.'
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 119.1–8

R My delight is in your statutes;I will not forget your word.

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts! *R*

Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways. You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. *R*

O that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments. *R*

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgements. I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. *R*

SECOND READING Ephesians 1.3–10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 14.1–14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 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 our full homage to demand. 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.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to vou. O Christ.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord. who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near. Ephesians 2.19,17

OFFERTORY HYMN

O thou who camest from above the fire celestial to impart. kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart!



There let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze, and trembling to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the holy fire. and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat; till death thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Father, accept all we bring before you this day. Guide us with your love and feed us at your table as you nourish the faith of the Church by the preaching of your apostles. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right and good that we should give you thanks, praise and glory, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For after his resurrection he sent out his apostles and evangelists to preach the gospel to all nations and lead us in the way of truth. Himself the chief cornerstone, he founded his Church upon the apostles

firmly to stand for ever as a sign of your holiness upon earth and a living witness to all of the way that leads to heaven.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let all mortal flesh keep silence. and with fear and trembling stand: ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand. Christ our God to earth descendeth,

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture. in the body and the blood. he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day. that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. Amen.

BLESSING

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations, bring you, with all the saints, to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!" The heav'ns are not too high, God's praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!" The church with psalms must shout: no door can keep them out.

But, more than all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, "My God and King!"