

Syria. The text says that Philip converted the wife of the proconsul of Hierapolis in Phrygia. The proconsul was so outraged that he had all three evangelists tortured. One account is that Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside down. Philip continued preaching from his cross. Such was his preaching that the crowd released Bartholomew, but Philip insisted that he remain on his cross until he died. There is, however, another account that Philip's death in Hierapolis was by beheading.

According to the website 'Catholic Online', in 2011 an Italian archaeologist claimed to have discovered the original tomb of Philip during excavations in ancient Hierapolis. There is an ancient basilica, the Church of the Sepulchre, which is a focal point of an ancient pilgrimage hill complex dedicated to Philip. Ancient Greek prayers are carved into the walls of the tomb and church venerating him. A coin from the Byzantine era shows Philip holding bread with this specific three-apsed church and the site of his martyrdom in the background. This, so it is said, removes all doubts about it being the original tomb of the Apostle. The church and tomb were places of veneration for centuries.

-Stephen S.

Entrance antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

Psalms 32: Response: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: Matthew 17 1-9

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Second Sunday of Lent

Cycle A, 2023 Weekly Reflection: **The lesser-known apostles: (2) St Philip**

St Philip's name appears mostly in St John's Gospel. He is called by Jesus in Galilee and said to have come from Bethsaida, the same city to the north of the Sea of Galilee whence came Peter and Andrew. Immediately after his calling, Philip found Nathaniel (probably St Bartholomew – see next

article) and said to him: *"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and also in the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph"*. Nathaniel asked whether anything good could come out of Nazareth, to which Philip responded: *"Come and see"*, and took Nathaniel to Jesus. Philip was at the feeding of the five thousand. It was Philip whom Jesus asked how they were going to feed the multitude. Philip responded that 200 denarii would not be sufficient to give them all a little each. Shortly before the Passion it was to Philip that some Greeks went asking to see the Lord. Then, at the Last Supper, Thomas asked how the apostles could know the way if they did not know where Jesus was going. Jesus responded that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life. After this Philip asked Jesus to show the Father to the Apostles, then they would be satisfied. Jesus answered, perhaps mildly admonishing Philip: *"Have I been with you so long and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father..."*

It is important not to confuse St Philip the Apostle with Philip the Evangelist who appears on occasions in the Acts of the Apostles, most famously when he converts the Ethiopian eunuch by explaining the meaning of the scripture and the Good News of Jesus to him. (Acts 8:26-40). St Philip the Apostle does not appear in Acts, except at the very beginning where he is listed as one of the Apostles in the upper room after the Ascension and before Pentecost. This confusion of the two Philips has made it somewhat difficult to determine to which of them reference is being made in early, non-scriptural Christian texts. From an anonymous work, probably written in the late 3rd/early 4th century A.D., it appears that Philip, Bartholomew and Philip's sister, Mariamne, preached in Greece, Phrygia (part of modern Turkey) and