

# Thursday of the third week of Easter

Thursday 30 Apr 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ex 15:1-2

Let us sing to the Lord, for he has gloriously triumphed. The Lord is my strength and my light; he has become my salvation, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

*If you believe with your whole heart, then you may be baptised.*

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.' So he set off on his journey. Now it happened that an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia, and was in fact her chief treasurer. He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and meet that chariot.' When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 'How can I' he replied 'unless I have someone to guide me?' So he invited Philip to get in and sit by his side. Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this:

Like a sheep that is led to the slaughter-house, like a lamb that is dumb in front of its shearers, like these he never opens his mouth. He has been humiliated and has no one to defend him. Who will ever talk about his descendants, since his life on earth has been cut short!

The eunuch turned to Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?' Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the Good News of Jesus to him.

Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look there is some water here; is there anything to stop me being baptised?' He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the eunuch both went down to the water and Philip baptised him. But after they had come up out of the water again Philip was taken away by the Spirit of the Lord, and the eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found that he had reached Azotus and continued his journey proclaiming the Good News in every town as far as Caesarea.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 65:8-9. 16-17. 20. R. v.1

**(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

1. O peoples, bless our God, let the voice of his praise resound, of the God who gave life to our souls and kept our feet from stumbling. **(R.)**
2. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: to him I cried aloud, with high praise ready on my tongue. **(R.)**
3. Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 6:51

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 6:44-51

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the living bread down from heaven.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

'No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God, and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me. Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

2 Cor 5:15

Christ died for all, that those who live may live no longer for themselves, but for him, who died for them and is risen, alleluia.