

## Thursday – Third Week of Easter

### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip,  
"Get up and head south on the road  
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route."  
So he got up and set out.  
Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch,  
a court official of the Candace,  
that is, the queen of the Ethiopians,  
in charge of her entire treasury,  
who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home.  
Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.  
The Spirit said to Philip,  
"Go and join up with that chariot."  
Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said,  
"Do you understand what you are reading?"  
He replied,  
"How can I, unless someone instructs me?"  
So he invited Philip to get in and sit with him.  
This was the Scripture passage he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who will tell of his posterity?  
For his life is taken from the earth.*

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply,  
"I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this?  
About himself, or about someone else?"  
Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this Scripture  
passage,

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he proclaimed Jesus to him.  
As they traveled along the road  
they came to some water,  
and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water.  
What is to prevent my being baptized?"  
Then he ordered the chariot to stop,  
and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water,  
and he baptized him.  
When they came out of the water,  
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away,  
and the eunuch saw him no more,  
but continued on his way rejoicing.  
Philip came to Azotus, and went about proclaiming the good news  
to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

66:8-9, 16-17, 20 (R. 1)

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

Bless our God, you peoples,  
loudly sound his praise;  
He has given life to our souls,  
and has not let our feet slip. **R.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare  
what he has done for me.  
When I appealed to him in words,  
praise was on the tip of my tongue. **R.**

Blessed be God who refused me not  
my prayer or his kindness! **R.**

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### ALLELUIA

John 6:51

℣. Alleluia. ℞. Alleluia.

℣. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.

℞. Alleluia. ℞. Alleluia.

### GOSPEL

John 6:44-51

✠. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him,  
and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

*They shall all be taught by God.*

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.  
Not that anyone has seen the Father  
except the one who is from God;  
he has seen the Father.

Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;  
this is the bread that comes down from heaven  
so that one may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give  
is my Flesh for the life of the world."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*