



# Risen Savior Lutheran Church

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What was the main thing St. Philip is remembered? He brought people to Jesus. That's all...and that's enough. Philip found, told Nathanael, **We have found him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael said to him, Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him, Come and see.** Come and see...in a place unimportant in Biblical, or world history, Nazareth. And Philip is there holy week with Greeks who want to see Jesus, and he brings them to **Come and see** their Savior. Still the way of Jesus. A simple invite, **Come and see.**

According to tradition, Philip went to labor in modern Turkey and was crucified or stoned, but we're not sure.

St. James, son of Alphaeus, called 'James, the Lesser' (to distinguish him from James, John's brother and James a step-brother of Jesus.) How tough would it be known as "the lesser" when others share your name. James is listed as a disciple, but no other mention of him in the NT. Nothing. According to tradition, martyred by being sawed in half. But we're not sure.

On the night of the betrayal. The Lord had given them His Body, His Blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Philip, still subject to temptations, said to Jesus: **Show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.** Poor Phillip. He's no better than us. **Show us the Father, that's what we need.** He doesn't know what he's asking. He wants something more than just Jesus.

Phillip, like you, wrongly blames God for his dissatisfaction. He thought God was holding out on him. He even came up with a plan of what God could or should do to make it right: **Show us the Father.** We get like that too. Blinded by our own foolishness, or think we have a better way for God and His church, have a better idea than God on how things could work. Blinded by a fallen world. Isn't His Word and very presence in the

Sacraments enough for you? Repent. You lack nothing. All things of the Kingdom are yours there, here.

You need nothing more. All you need, you have in Jesus. Thus, you have the Father. Are **fellow citizens with the saints, members of the household of God**, Paul writes. So do not be afraid to ask for the things of this earth. Pray without fear or doubts. **Ask, and it will be given to you**. For your Father will not fail you. He loves you and your prayers please Him. Whatever you ask, in accord with His holy will, He will do. Perhaps not in ways you see or understand, or even will know about in your lifetime. And it will be for your good, and you will be glad in the end.

How, then, do you know the Son and believe in Him? Still today as then. By the preaching of His Word, and by the works that are done in His Name.

We read the stories of the Bible and history of the Church and discount them as if the saints of old did not live in a world like ours, did not have to face the difficult choices we must face, or had some special advantage or secret wisdom we do not possess. No! They are more like you than you think. They heard the Word; believed; followed without any guarantees or special graces to prevent them from failing. It's nice to talk about how things are in the real world and how difficult it is to live Christian faith in that real world but it has always been that way.

And when they fell, they came crawling back to God in repentance and found the surprise of grace to receive, absolve, and restore them. Yes, we live in a world unfriendly to God and His Word and His Kingdom; yes, the things of God, the Word of God, and the ways of God are largely misunderstood and rejected. Yes, it's a challenge to remain steadfast in doctrine and practice and endure the scorn of people we know and people we don't; end up about as out of place as Amish in the big city. But it has always been that way.

Unremarkable Philip, James are remarkable only to God. 2 ordinary men. In history a footnote; in the memory of the Church a mystery; in the mission of the kingdom anonymous; just a name... only to God remarkable, membered, beloved. I dare say you are the same. Sure people know you now, maybe a grandchild or two remember you in future generations.. but then it will be done, unremarkable, not noteworthy, ordinary people, remarkable only to God.

It won't be too long vicar and you'll be forgotten here. It will happen to me too. Think not. Do you know of Pastor Demetrio, first pastor of this congregation? In his 3rd year, typhoid breaks out in the area, while pastoring the people, he gets it, dies, just 27 yrs old. Then his wife dies 9 days later from it. Their 1 yr old daughter. goes to live with family in Emma Mo. not too noteworthy and forgotten by the world. Except by our historian Mariano.

Philip, James go about the ministry, quietly baptizing, teaching, administering the Sacrament as they were called to do. Not noteworthy in history. As well even today, your servants serve the church. This is how it should be. All about Christ. Thru His pastors; it's His office, to give you the gifts of His Kingdom; to tend to His sheep; for you to have a shoulder to cry on, hands to help, voice to call you to repent and comfort you with the healing balm of the gospel. It's always all about Christ. In this we should take great comfort. In this Philip, James the lesser, Demetrio, Weinkauf, Castellero should not be noteworthy. But the Office God has given and the good He bestows is always remembered.

And know that your vocation, your ordinary life, your routines, of attending to children, family, friends, people in your life; and taking care of the things God has given you; you inviting, **come and see**; you are serving in His kingdom no less than Philip or James or Demetrio or Vicar or me. You are given holy vocations, jobs, roles in His kingdom out of His love, His grace to do. All a bunch of "the lesser." He loves you no less that Philip and James and He will see to your good. **Let not your hearts be troubled. Ask**, according to His gracious will, He will do it for you. And you are never unimportant, or forgotten; remarkably ordinary you are beloved by Him.