

you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

### THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

What distinguished Peter among the first disciples was his God-given insight into the identity of Jesus. In response to this unique insight Jesus gives Peter a special role: he is to be the rock, the solid foundation on which the church of Jesus will stand. Peter's role is clarified when Jesus gives him "the keys of the kingdom of heaven".

#### Prayer over the Offerings

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice.

#### Communion Antiphon

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

#### Prayer after Communion

Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love.

*God's Anointed One kept bringing the Father's love and mercy to the very end. This merciful love, demands that we too go forth to every corner of life, to reach out to everyone, even though this may cost us our "good name", our comforts, our status... even martyrdom.*

(Pope Francis)

## SS PETER & PAUL

*Year C*

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and living God.*

*For by your providence the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy: Peter, foremost in confessing the faith, Paul, its outstanding preacher, Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant of Israel, Paul, master and teacher of the Gentiles that you call. And so, each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share one Martyr's crown.*

*And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...*

(Preface for the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul)

#### Entrance Antiphon

*These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.*

#### Collect

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

#### FIRST READING: ACTS 12:1-11

Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And

when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Facing almost certain death at the hands of Herod, we hear of Peter's miraculous escape from prison through the intervention of the angel of the Lord. As if in a dream, Peter comes to his senses after the angel leaves him and declares, 'Now I know it is all true, the Lord really did send his angel'.

**PSALM: 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9.**

**Response:** *From all my terrors the LORD set me free.*

I will bless the LORD at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth.  
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear  
and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me; together let us praise his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.  
Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the LORD heard, and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped around those who fear him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

#### **SECOND READING: TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 17-18**

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Paul's letters show that he was very aware that keeping the faith was not due primarily to his own efforts; it was the Lord who enabled him to keep the faith. As he says in today's second Reading, "the Lord stood by me and gave me power." It is the Lord who empowers all of us to keep the faith; his faithfulness to us enables us to be faithful to him; his faithful love encourages us to keep returning to him even after failure.

**Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Alleluia.**

#### **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-19**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do