

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have
mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day
long.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father
have mercy on us;
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite
in a single purpose, grant your people to love what
you command and to desire what you promise, that,
amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may
be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 22: 19 - 23* **A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna,
the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.



I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 137:1-3,6, 8*

**R. Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple [R]
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul [R]
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. [R]

SECOND READING *Romans 11: 33-36*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom
and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate
his motives or understand his methods! Who could
ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be
his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or
lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all
is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter and on this rock
I will build my Church.
And the gates of the underworld
can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 16: 13 - 20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi
he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people
say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he
is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah
or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do
you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are
the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus
replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man!
Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed
this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say
to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my
Church. And the gates of the underworld can never
hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall
be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose
on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then
he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone
that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



focus on sunday

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27th August 2023

Our Christian life will call on us at times to make a decision for or
against Jesus, as for the apostles in today's gospel.
We know with him we have the message of the deepest human love
we are capable of.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death
and was buried, and rose again on the third
day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead and his kingdom will
have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from
the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through
the prophets. I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a
people by adoption through the one
sacrifice offered once for all, bestow
graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of
unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and
profess your Resurrection until you
come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
Through Christ our Lord.



Jesus was a mystery to the Jews. They were
expecting a Messiah who would be a powerful
king, leading an army and conquering the
surrounding hostile kingdoms which kept
invading Israel and dispersing the people, and thereby ensure
that Israel could live in peace. They could not accept that
this poor, wandering Rabbi, who "had nowhere to lay his
head" could possibly be the Messiah. Nevertheless, they saw
that Jesus was clearly a good man, spoke about God with
authenticity, and his preaching was admired by all – except
perhaps some of those in authority! So who was he, then?
Was he a prophet, like Elijah or Jeremiah, come back to
admonish Israel and call them back to true obedience to God?
His preaching was certainly very similar to theirs. Peter's
recognition of Jesus for who he was, "You are the Christ, the
Son of the living God," was not just an intellectual affirmation.
Jesus said, "Not everyone who says Lord, Lord, will enter the
Kingdom of Heaven," (Matthew 7 v 21). No, Peter was not just
stating a fact. He was making a commitment, a commitment
to following Jesus. He was throwing in his lot with Jesus.
Jesus was now his leader and he would go wherever Jesus
went. When Jesus washed his feet at the Last Supper, he
understood that following Jesus meant being at the service of
others. Our belief in Jesus as the Christ involves being willing
to sacrifice ourselves for others, as He did for us.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ