



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, APOSTLES

28th June 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Today we celebrate a special feastday – the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. (*The feast is actually tomorrow, but holy days are moved to Sunday when they fall on Saturday or Monday*) They were very different in character and history, but were drawn together in service of Jesus and his Gospel. Both ended their lives in the city of Rome. They are nicknamed "princes of the Apostles" because each in his own way was a leader and influence in the Church in its beginnings. As we celebrate them today, let us first acknowledge our sins and ask for God's forgiveness:

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: For we have sinned against you.

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: And grant us your salvation.

GLORIA

Leader: We praise our God this Sunday as we say:

All: **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

Leader: Let us pray. 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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-19

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

REFLECTION

Today Jesus makes a pun! He renames Simon "Peter": "Petros" in Greek and "Kepha" in Aramaic means "Rock" – or perhaps even "Rocky"?! The point is that Jesus wants Simon Peter to be the "rock" or foundation of the Church. But it may seem that Peter was a somewhat wobbly foundation – remember how he denied knowing Jesus three times on Maundy Thursday? Saint Paul too is an unusual leader for the early Church – he had started out persecuting Christians, arresting and imprisoning them! Jesus chooses real, fragile people. The weaknesses of Peter and Paul become their strengths, as they allow the grace of God, rather than anything of their own, to work within them. We may sometimes feel we are not cut out to be saints: let us remember this feast day, and the trust Jesus shows in ordinary human beings, with all their faults, to do His work in the family of the Church.



A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS



Do you know the nursery rhyme "Two little dickie birds..."? You may know the gestures that go with it – show your family if you do! Did you know it's a very old song, coming from the 1750s? But back then, the two little birds were called Jack and Jill. It was in the 1800s that their names changed to the saints we celebrate today – no one knows why! But it's a way of remembering why these two saints are so important to us: Saint Peter, friend of Jesus and the first Pope (we trace a line from him all the way to Pope Francis), and Saint Paul who single-handedly spread the message of Jesus all over the world!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: On this feast of the great apostles Peter and Paul let us pray for the whole family of the Church, that we may be united in faith and proclamation of the Gospel.

Leader: Let us pray for Pope Francis, successor of Saint Peter, that he may always be a rock to support the whole family of the Church. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for all preachers and teachers, successors of Saint Paul, that they may fearlessly proclaim the Gospel and run the race to the end. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for all who are persecuted for their faith, that the example and prayers of Saint Peter and Saint Paul may sustain them. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: May the prayers of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the prayers that we present to you this day, and may their constant intercession make us devoted to you every day of our lives. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, 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. At the Last Supper Jesus showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

All: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

All: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Leader: 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.

All: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Leader: Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

All: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Leader: The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

All: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. 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. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!