

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

**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.**

COLLECT

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, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward,
to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will
thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from
your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son
of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind
your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand.
And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and
to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the
key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall
shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will
fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become
a throne of honour to his father's house."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Psalm 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc, R.8bc

**R. O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The LORD is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

SECOND READINGA reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge
of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how
inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the

Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given
a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and
through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for
ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL****Alleluia, alleluia.**

Matthew 16:18

**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 16:13-20

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: 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 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.' Then he strictly charged
the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**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.
Amen.

R.

R.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 103: 13-15

**The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.**

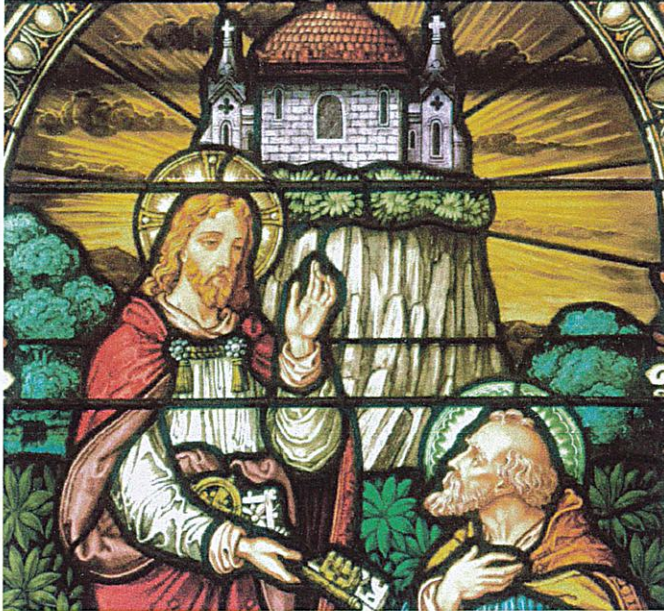
R.

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.
Amen.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



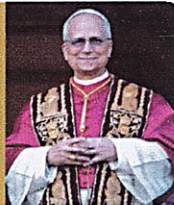
When we look at Peter in the various episodes of the gospel where he is a protagonist, we can better understand what the apostle Paul meant when he spoke about the “old self” and the “new

self”. On the side of his “old self” we see Peter the fisher mending his nets on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. As he correctly identifies Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God” we see the “new self” of Peter. This “new self” is confirmed by Jesus in the mission he gives to him to be the “rock” on which the Church is built. However, while he is on this earth the “new self” of Peter will never be permanent. In fact, Peter goes on to deny he ever knew Jesus three times. What redeems Peter is his humility. He recognises himself as a sinner. We can learn from Peter. To be a Christian means

to be gifted with a “new self” which also includes a mission which in one way or another involves building the Kingdom of God. This “new self” is not something I can boast about because like Peter, in a moment of weakness I may revert to my “old self”. What is important is to start again, and to once again “put on” the “new self”. With time this “new self” can become ever more established so that one day I can say with St. Paul: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2,20). And with Peter we can say: “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you” (Jn 21:17).



POPE LEO XIV THE HOLY SEE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



THE CRY OF THE POOR

8. The passage of Sacred Scripture in which God reveals himself to Moses in the burning bush can serve as a constant starting-point for this effort. There he says: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them... So come, I will send you” (Ex 3:7-8,10).⁷ God thus shows his concern for the needs of the poor: “When the Israelites cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer” (Judg 3:15). In hearing the cry of the poor, we are asked to enter into the heart of God, who is always concerned for the needs of his children, especially those in greatest need. If we remain unresponsive to that cry, the poor might well cry out to the Lord against us, and we would incur guilt (cf. Deut 15:9) and turn away from the very heart of God.

⁷ Cf. Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 187; AAS 105 (2013), 1098.

Lumen Gentium n.7

The Head of this Body is Christ. He is the image of the invisible God and in Him all things came into being. He is before all creatures and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the Body which is the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the first place. By the greatness of His power He rules the things in heaven and the things on earth, and with His all-surpassing perfection and way of acting He fills the whole body with the riches of His glory. All the members ought to be moulded in the likeness of Him, until Christ be formed in them. For this reason we, who have been made to conform with Him, who have died with Him and risen with Him, are taken up into the mysteries of His life, until we will reign together with Him. On earth, still as pilgrims in a strange land, tracing in trial and in oppression the paths He trod, we are made one with His sufferings like the body is one with the Head, suffering with Him, that with Him we may be glorified.

