

# Daily Prayer

*St Peter and St Paul*

*Wednesday, June 29, 2022*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys.*

*We begin by saying*

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord.

**and teach me your paths.**

## The First Reading

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*Ezekiel 34.11-16*

## The Psalm

His foundation is on the holy mountains. ♦

The Lord loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Glorious things are spoken of you, ♦  
Zion, city of our God.

I record Egypt and Babylon as those who know me; ♦  
behold Philistia, Tyre and Ethiopia:  
in Zion were they born.

And of Zion it shall be said, 'Each one was born in her, ♦  
and the Most High himself has established her.'

The Lord will record as he writes up the peoples, ♦  
'This one also was born there.'

And as they dance they shall sing, ♦  
'All my fresh springs are in you.'

*Psalm 87*

## The Gospel Reading

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you

grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

*John 21.15-19*

*In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## **The Canticle ~ Benedictus**

*You did not choose me but I chose you  
and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit,  
fruit that shall last.*

*Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦  
who has come to his people and set them free.*

*He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦  
born of the house of his servant David.*

*Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,*

*To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦  
and to remember his holy covenant.*

*This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,*

*Free to worship him without fear, ♦  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.*

*And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,*

To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦  
*by the forgiveness of all their sins.*

In the tender compassion of our God ♦  
*the dawn from on high shall break upon us,*

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death, ♦  
*and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*Luke 1.68-79*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

*You did not choose me but I chose you  
and I appointed you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that  
shall last*

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The  
Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing  
sentences.*

## **The Intercessions**

We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to God's Church, saying:  
Holy One,

**in your mercy hear us.**

God our Creator, you give us gifts that we may work together  
in the service of your Son:

bless the leaders of your Church,  
that they may be firm in faith,  
and humble before you.

Holy One

**in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who teach,  
that they may increase our understanding,  
and be open to your word for them.

Holy One

**in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who minister healing,  
that they may bring wholeness to others,  
yet know your healing in themselves.

Holy One

**in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those through whom you speak,  
that they may proclaim your word in power,  
yet open their ears to your gentle whisper.

Holy One

**in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who work in your world today,  
that in the complexity of their daily lives  
they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,  
and seek your kingdom first.

Holy One

**in your mercy hear us.**

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts  
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,  
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit.

Holy One

**hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

Almighty God,  
your blessed apostles Peter and Paul  
glorified you in their death as in their life.  
Grant that your Church,  
inspired by their teaching and example,  
and made one by your Spirit,  
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

**Amen.**

# St Peter and St Paul

## *Apostles—Holy Day*

According to a well-attested tradition, the apostles Peter and Paul suffered martyrdom at Rome around the year 64. It is said that Paul as a Roman citizen was granted the right to be beheaded by a sword, but that Peter endured crucifixion, being nailed to the cross upside down. We cannot say whether they died on the same day, but from very ancient times their martyrdoms have been commemorated together.

When Luke wrote the Book of Acts, he focused the first half of his account almost entirely on Peter and the role he played in the founding of the Church. This part of the story reaches its climax with Peter's visit to Caesare'a, where a heavenly vision gave him courage to break with apostolic custom and baptize a family of pagans without requiring them submit to Jewish regulations.

At this point, Luke shifted his attention to Paul and devoted the rest of his account to Paul's missionary journeys — a story which culminates with Paul's arrival at Rome, the very heart of the pagan world. Thus, in the Book of Acts, Peter and Paul were like runners in a relay race; it was as if Peter carried the gospel during the first lap, then handed it over to Paul, who finished the course.

A rather different story emerges from Paul's own Letter to the Galatians. Paul presented a picture of conflict, with himself as a loner pitted against Peter and the other leaders of the church at Jerusalem. The two parties eventually met and agreed to a mutual recognition of ministries. But a short time later Peter appeared to go back on this agreement, and Paul rebuked him to his face. In the ensuing controversy Paul was isolated; a number of his own associates deserted him, and he went off on his own.

Paul's Letter to the Galatians is the only first-hand information that we have; and so far as it goes, Peter and Paul are frozen in a history of fierce antagonism. Today's feast bears witness that, even if their disagreement was not resolved in the realm of human history, their martyrdom united them in the paschal victory of Jesus Christ.

From *For All the Saints*



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