

Daily Prayer

The Confession of St Peter the Apostle

Wednesday, January 18, 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—and remember the Confession of St Peter the Apostle.

We begin by saying

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous

and all the peoples have seen your glory.

The First Reading

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

Acts 4.8-13

The Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's
sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

The Gospel Reading

Now 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, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not

revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Matthew 16.13-19

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 ~ A Song of the Covenant

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

Thus says God, who created the heavens, ♦
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

Who gives breath to the people upon it ♦
and spirit to those who walk in it,

'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ♦
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

'I have given you as a covenant to the people, ♦
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

'To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ♦
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

'I am the Lord, that is my name; ♦
my glory I give to no other.'

Isaiah 42.5-8a

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.

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

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

The Intercessions

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
You sent your Child to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to the captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.

By your Spirit

bring in your kingdom.

Use us, unworthy as we are,
to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.
Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son,
that all our joy and delight may be to serve you,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
you inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles,
to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God.
Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith,
so that in unity and peace
we may proclaim the one truth
and follow the one 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 the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts.

Amen.

The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle

Holy Day

Today we commemorate the confession of Simon Peter as told in the Gospel according to Matthew. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon spoke up and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Jesus then responded: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

In telling this story, the evangelist showed that every confession of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God," is always a gift from God. It is not something that human beings can discover by their own powers, nor is it a truth obvious to anyone who looks at the historical Jesus without the help of the Holy Spirit. The natural power of sight needs to be fulfilled by God's merciful gift of insight.

Today's feast was instituted by the Episcopal Church of the United States to complement the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January twenty-fifth. Together these two feasts provide a suitable beginning and end for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which all Churches now observe at this time of year. As Paul's conversion reminds Christians that they are united in a call to proclaim Jesus among the nations, so Peter's confession reminds Christians that they are united in the basis of this mission, which is the inspired knowledge of Jesus Christ, "the Son of the living God."

Credits:

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