

Sunday Message

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

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.

COLLECT

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 114 (116):1-6,8-9

Response:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. (R.)

2. They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord my God, deliver me! (R.)

3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. (R.)

4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (R.)

SECOND READING

James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, "I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty", without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: "You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist," they said "others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets." "But you," he asked "who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said to him, "You are the Christ." And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's." He called the people and his disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

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

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 during the next 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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

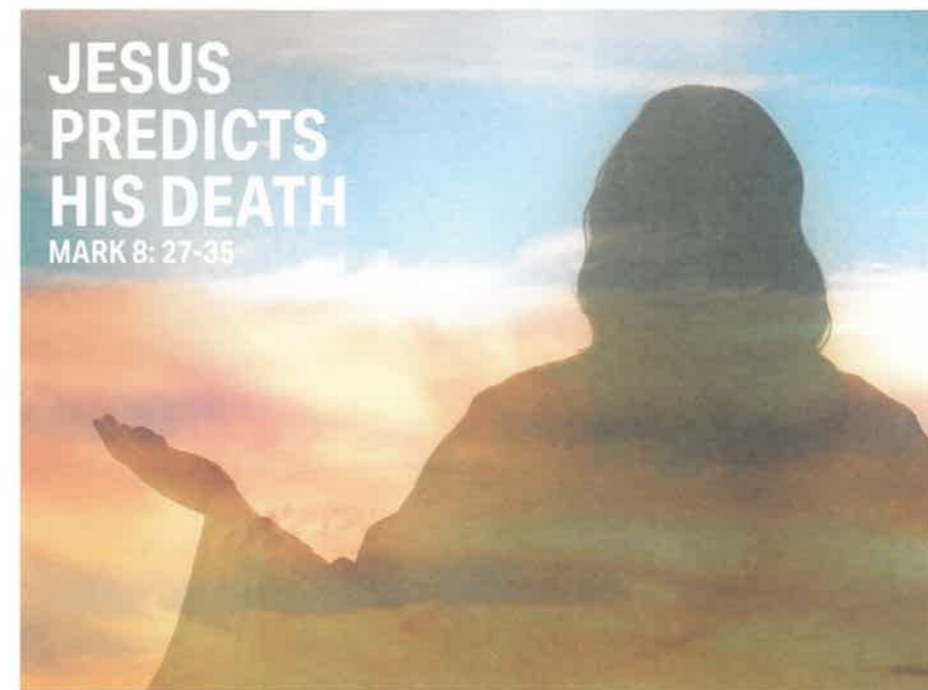
Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH
MARK 8: 27-35

Intimacy forms part of many interactions and scenes between Jesus and his disciples. Today something is being shared that will only be fully appreciated and fully known at the hour of Jesus' death.

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. At one level, Jesus does not want this known publicly. The reason of course is the meaning of the word Messiah in his society suggests a figure who will accomplish victory of Israel's oppressors through military force. This is not why Jesus has come into the world. At another level, it will be very difficult to keep his identity hidden for much longer. He heals the sick, he speaks of God the Father as loving and compassionate. He speaks of his own future that will involve rejection, suffering and being put to death. This is not the language or information that Peter is expecting as he refuses to believe that the future of the Messiah will involve death and suffering. However, the great learning moment for the Church and these eager disciples, is that God is no stranger to suffering, and he will allow himself through his Son to be crucified on a cross. ■

REFLECT

When you witness a ceremony like confirmation or Holy Communion or baptism, you can't help but feel that our faith and belief in God is something that develops ... like building blocks, over time and over the course of our lives. The baby is introduced to the Church with the life-giving water of baptism, the 8-year-old is introduced to the bread of life, the 12-year-old is confirmed in their faith by anointing them with the oil of chrism.

And then we move into adulthood, and through life experience, through our own prayer, through parenthood, we see our

faith as being practically important in our day to day lives. We quietly say a prayer when we get a minute or two in our busy day, we speak to God of our concern for our children perhaps, we ask God to continue to watch over our family members and keep them safe. So like building blocks, our faith develops over time and our prayer lives develop over time.

This is mirrored back to us in the Gospels. When we look at the small group of disciples Jesus gathered around him, their faith in God and the Son of God developed over time. The light switch moment was

DO

This week, let us renew our commitment to the gifts of the Holy Spirit by becoming aware of how we live out these gifts in our home, our workplace and our community.

SAY

"Lord you have made us for yourself, therefore our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (Saint Augustine)

LEARN

We read about the gifts of the Holy Spirit as part of our preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gifts are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord (Is 11: 2-3).



probably meeting the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus, but for the most part, they were often filled with doubt and questions. Except today, Peter gives the best response to the question, "Who do people say that I am?" "You are the Christ," he answers.

We gather around the Gospel this weekend as people of faith. Sometimes our faith is very strong and sometimes our faith is weak. Like the disciples, we continue to listen to God's word and allow it to take root in our lives. May the presence of the living Christ encourage us and give us hope in our lives. ■