

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

Is 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 ashamed.
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.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 114:1-6,8-9

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

Jm 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.

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

Mk 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.

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,
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.

**WHO DO YOU
SAY I AM?**

MARK 8:27-35



It was probably embarrassing enough for the disciples when Jesus asked them who people thought he was. It was even more embarrassing when the question got personal- "Who do you think I am?"

It is easy to imagine a few moments of stunned and uncomfortable silence, broken only by Peter blurting out, "You are the Messiah." Yes, the rest of them agreed. That is what he was and it would only be a matter of another week or so before they reached Jerusalem for Passover. Then he would declare himself publicly as the Son of David and his reign as king of Israel would begin in earnest. As part of his inner circle, life could only get better for them.

Yet this is where the conversation takes a sharp turn. What lies ahead is not a throne, but a cross. It is not a cheering crowd that awaits them but a jeering one. There will be no pleasures of the royal palace but pain and death. Peter, ever the optimist, pulls him aside. That is no way to talk, he tells him, it will only frighten the others. Jesus

turns on him. Peter is a tempter, a Satan.

Following Jesus is a matter of total self-forgetfulness. No self-respecting human being wanted to end up on a cross. Roman citizens were spared the cross and it was reserved for slaves and revolutionaries. A character in a play written about two hundred years before Christ, says: "Don't threaten me. I know that the cross will be my grave. That is where all my ancestors were laid to rest – my father, and my grandfather, and my great-grandfather, and my great-great-grandfather." For a slave, the cross was a 'no hope' sign. It was the sign of death. Yet it will be the door into eternal life for the follower of Jesus. The crucifixion will not be the final episode in his life. It will be followed by the glory of Easter. ■

SAY

"O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day." (Prayer of St Richard of Chester)

DO

Spend some time this week reflecting honestly on Jesus' question: "Who am I for you?"

PRAY

Pray especially this week for young men and women who, at this time of year, are faced with choices that may determine the shape of the rest of their lives.

LEARN

Sometimes my failures and sins can provide an opportunity to start again if I learn to be truly sorry for them.

Every saint is a forgiven sinner.

REFLECT



Preaching on this scene at one of his regular morning Masses, Pope Francis reminded us that we can understand the question Jesus asked Peter, "Who am I for you?" only after having travelled a long path. Given our human frailty, that path will probably be a path of both grace and sin, a path of daily struggle. It is the disciple's path because "following Jesus enables us to know Jesus. We follow him through our virtues, but we also follow him through our sins." To answer Jesus' question when it is directed to each of us, the Pope went on, it is not enough to draw on abstract ideas, even religious ones. What is needed is the life experience of a disciple. It is through daily struggles, our victories and our weaknesses, that we come to know who he is. Taking stock of my daily life will probably help me to answer that question, "Who is Christ for me?" ■