



THE SOLEMNITY OF Ss PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

The Office of Readings

The Invitatory

- ☒ Lord, open our lips.
And we shall praise your name.

Psalm 95

“Every day, as long as this ‘today’ lasts,
keep encouraging one another” (Heb 3:13).

Antiphon: The Lord is the king of apostles;
come, let us adore him.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lórd; *
háil the Gód who sáves us.

Let us cóme before him, giving thánks, *
with sóngs let us háil the Lórd.

A míghty Gód is the Lórd, *
a gréat king abóve all góds.

In his hánd are the dépths of the éarth; *
the héights of the móúntains are his.

To him belongs the séa, for he máde it *
 and the drý land sháped by his hánds.
 Come in; let us bów and bend lów; *
 let us knéel before the Gód who máde us:
 for hé is our Gód and wé †
 the péople who belóng to his pásture, *
 the flóck that is léd by his hánd.
 O that today you would listen to his vóice! †
 ‘Hárden not your héarts as at Meribah, *
 as on that dáy at Mássah in the désert
 when your fáthers pút me to the tést; *
 when they tried me, thóugh they saw my wórk.
 For forty yéars I was wéaried of these péople †
 and I sáid: “Their héarts are astráy, *
 these péople do not knów my wáys.”
 Thén I took an óath in my ánger: *
 “Néver shall they énter my rést.”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: The Lord is the king of apostles;
 come, let us adore him.

Hymn

The eternal gifts of Christ the King,
 The Apostles' glory let us sing;
 And all with hearts of gladness raise
 Due hymns of thankful love and praise.

For they the Church's princes are,
 Triumphant leaders in the war,
 In heavenly courts a warrior band,
 True lights to lighten every land.

Theirs is the steadfast faith of saints,
 And hope that never yields nor faints,
 The love of Christ in perfect glow
 That lays the prince of this world low.

In them the Father's glory shone,
 In them the will of God the Son,
 In them exults the Holy Ghost,
 Through them rejoice the heavenly host.

Psalm 19

Praise of God the creator

*“The Rising Sun has come to visit us
 to guide our feet in the way of peace” (Lk 1:78,79).*

Antiphon: Simon Peter, if you love me, feed my sheep.

The héavens procláim the glóry of Gód, *
 and the firmament shows fórth the wórk of his hánds.
 Dáy unto dáy tákes up the stóry *
 and night unto níght makes knówn the méssage.
 No spéech, no wórd, no vóice is héard †
 yet their spán exténds through áll the éarth, *
 their wórds to the útmost bóunds of the wórlð.
 Thére he has pláced a tént for the sún; †
 it comes fórth like a bridegroom cóming from his tént, *
 rejóices like a chámption to rún its cóurse.
 At the énd of the ský is the rising of the sún; †
 to the fúrstest énd of the ský is its cóurse. *
 There is nóthing conceáled from its búrning héat.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Simon Peter, if you love me, feed my sheep.

Psalm-prayer:

To enlighten the world, Father, you sent to us your Word as the

The Angelus

V/. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary;
 R/. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
 blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
 now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
 R/. **Be it unto to me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
 blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
 now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. And the Word was made flesh;
 R/. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
 blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
 now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
 R/. **That we may be made worthy
 of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.
 We beseech thee, O Lord,
 to pour thy grace into our hearts;
 that as we have known the Incarnation
 of thy Son Jesus Christ
 by the message of an angel,
 so by his ☩ Cross and Passion,
 we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection.
 Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our Gód *
who visits us like the dawn from on high.
He will give light to those in darkness, †
those who dwell in the shadow of death, *
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Simon Peter said, 'Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life;
we believe and we know that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,' alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

We pray to Christ who built his Church on the rock, and sent his
apostles as witnesses to his victory over death:

– *Lord, be with your Church.*

You prayed that the faith of Peter might not fail:
strengthen and sustain the faith of your Church.

– *Lord, be with your Church.*

When you had risen from the dead you appeared to Peter and
revealed yourself to Paul:

help us to live in the power of your resurrection

– *Lord, be with your Church.*

You chose Paul to proclaim your good news to the nations:
like him, may we be committed to spreading the truths of your
gospel.

– *Lord, be with your Church.*

Peter denied you, but your love drew him back to you:
whatever we have done in the past, keep us close to your merciful
love.

– *Lord, be with your Church.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Let us pray.

Lord our God,
may the blessed apostles Peter and Paul
support us by their prayers.
Through them you first taught your Church the Christian faith.
Provide us now, by their intercession,
with help for our eternal salvation.
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.

✠ The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to
everlasting life.
Amen.

sun of truth and justice shining upon mankind. Illumine our eyes
that we may discern your glory in the many works of your hand.
Amen.

Psalm 64

A prayer against enemies

*"This psalm in particular invites us to think
about the passion of the Lord" (St Augustine).*

Antiphon: For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain:
I must glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear my voice, O Gód, as I complain, *
guard my life from dread of the foe.
Hide me from the band of the wicked, *
from the throng of those who do evil.
They sharpen their tongues like swords; *
they aim bitter words like arrows
to shoot at the innocent from ambush, *
shooting suddenly and recklessly.
They scheme their evil course; *
they conspire to lay secret snares.
They say: 'Who will see us? *
Who can search out our crimes?'
He will search who searches the mind *
and knows the depths of the heart.
Gód has shot them with his arrow *
and dealt them sudden wounds.
Their own tongue has brought them to ruin *
and all who see them mock.
Then will all men fear; *
they will tell what Gód has done.
They will understand God's deeds. *
The just will rejoice in the Lord
and fly to him for refuge. *
All the upright hearts will glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain:
I must glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm-prayer:

Father, you gave your Son victory over the men who plotted evil
against him; when he cried to you in his agony, you delivered him
from fear of his enemies. May those who suffer with him in this
life find refuge and success in you. Amen.

Psalm 97

The glory of God in his judgements

*"This psalm tells of the salvation of the world
and of the faith all peoples would have in Christ" (St Athanasius).*

Antiphon: Lord, if it is you,
bid me come to you over the waters.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, *
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment; *
his throne, justice and right.
A fire prepares his path; *
it burns up his foes on every side.
His lightnings light up the world, *
the earth trembles at the sight.
The mountains melt like wax *
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice; *
all peoples see his glory.
Let those who serve idols be ashamed, †
those who boast of their worthless gods. *
All you spirits, worship him.
Sion hears and is glad; †
the people of Judah rejoice *
the people of Judah rejoice *

because of your judgements, O Lórd.
 For yóu indéed are the Lórd †
 most high above all the éarth, *
 exálted far abóve all spirít.
 The Lórd loves thóse who hate évil; †
 he gúards the sóuls of his sáints; *
 he sêts them frée from the wicked.
 Light shines fóρθ for the júst *
 and jóy for the úpright of héart.
 Rejóice, you júst, in the Lórd; *
 give glóry to his hólý náme.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Lord, if it is you,
 bid me come to you over the waters.

Psalm-prayer:

Father, you clothe the sky with light and the depths of the ocean
 with darkness. Among the sons of men you work wonders, and
 rain terror upon the enemy. Look upon your servants. Do not try
 us by fire but bring us rejoicing to the shelter of your home.
 Amen.

Ÿ. The word of the Lord endures for ever.

Ř. That word is the gospel which has been preached to you.

First Reading

Galatians 1: 15 - 2: 10

God, who had specially chosen me while I was still in my mother's womb, called me through his grace and chose to reveal his Son in me, so that I might preach the Good News about him to the pagans. I did not stop to discuss this with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were already apostles before me, but I went off to Arabia at once and later went straight back from there to Damascus. Even when after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days, I did not see any of the other apostles; I only saw James, the brother of the Lord, and I swear before God that what I have just written is the literal truth. After that I went to Syria and Cilicia, and was still not known by sight to the churches of Christ in Judaea, who had heard nothing except that their one-time persecutor was now preaching the faith he had previously tried to destroy; and they gave glory to God for me. It was not till fourteen years had passed that I went up to Jerusalem again. I went with Barnabas and took Titus with me. I went there as the result of a revelation, and privately I laid before the leading men the Good News as I proclaim it among the pagans; I did so for fear the course I was adopting or had already adopted would not be allowed. And what happened? Even though Titus who had come with me is a Greek, he was not obliged to be circumcised. The question came up only because some who do not really belong to the brotherhood have furtively crept in to spy on the liberty we enjoy in Christ Jesus, and want to reduce us all to slavery. I was so determined to safeguard for you the true meaning of the Good News, that I refused even out of deference to yield to such people for one moment. As a result, these people who are acknowledged leaders – not that their importance matters to me, since God has no favourites – these leaders, as I say, had nothing to add to the Good News as I preach it. On the contrary, they recognised that I had been commissioned to preach the Good News to the uncircumcised just as Peter had been commissioned to preach it to the circumcised. The same person whose action had made Peter the apostle of the circumcised had given me a similar mission to the pagans. So, James, Cephas and John, these leaders, these pillars, shook hands with Barnabas and me as a sign of partnership: we were to go to the pagans and they to the circumcised. The only thing they insisted on was that we should remember to help the poor, as indeed I was anxious to do.

Let them práise his náme with dáncing *
 and make músic with tímbrél and hárp.
 For the Lórd takes delight in his péople. *
 He crówns the póor with salvátion.
 Let the fáithful rejóice in their glóry, *
 shout for jóy and táke their rést.
 Let the práise of Gód be on their líps *
 and a twó-edged swórd in their hánd,
 to déal out véngéance to the nátions *
 and púnishment on all the péoples;
 to bind their kíngs in cháins *
 and their nóbles in fétters of íron;
 to cárry out the sénténcé pre-ordáined: *
 this hónour is for all his fáithful.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: I have fought the good fight;
 I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

Psalm-prayer:

Lord Jesus, you came to your own people and gave to all who
 welcomed you power to become children of God. In your merci-
 ful love watch over the Church and through her ministry bring
 salvation to the meek and lowly. May we avoid the snares of the
 impious, and come to rejoice in glory with your saints. Amen.

Short Reading

1 Peter 4: 13-14

Beloved, if you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.

Short Responsory

They laid down their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 – *They laid down their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 They went away rejoicing that they had the honour of suffering
 humiliation.
 – *They laid down their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
 – *They laid down their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Canticle - Benedictus

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Antiphon: Simon Peter said, 'Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life;
 we believe and we know that you are the Christ,
 the Son of God,' alleluia.

✠ Blésséd be the Lórd, the Gód of Ísraél! *
 He has vísited his péople and redéemed them.
 He has ráised úp for ús a míghty sáviour *
 in the hóuse of Dávid his sérvant,
 as he prómised by the líps of holy mén, *
 thóse who were his próphets from of óld.
 A sáviour who would frée us from our fóes, *
 from the hánds of all who háte us.
 So his lóve for our fáthers is fulfilled *
 and his hólý covenant remébered.
 He swóre to Ábraham our fáther to gránt us, *
 that frée from féar, and sáved from the hánds of our fóes,
 we míght sérve him in hóliness and jústice *
 all the dáys of our lífe in his préséncé.
 As for yóu, líttle child, *
 you shall be cálléd a próphet of Gód, the Most Hígh.
 You shall go ahead of the Lórd *
 to prépare his wáys befóre him,
 To make knówn to his péople their salvátion *

Canticle - Daniel 3:57-88,56

All creatures, bless the Lord

"Praise our God, all you his servants" (Rev 19:5).

Antiphon: The grace of God in me has not been fruitless;
rather, his grace remains with me always.

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord. *
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord *
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever
And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord. *
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord. *
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
O let the earth bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord. *
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord. *
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord. †
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, children of men, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord. *
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.
Ananias, Azarias, Mizaël, O bless the Lord. *
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit: *
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.
May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens: *
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

Antiphon: The grace of God in me has not been fruitless;
rather, his grace remains with me always.

Psalm 149

The saints rejoice

*"The members of the Church, God's new people,
will rejoice in their king, who is Christ" (Hesychius).*

Antiphon: I have fought the good fight;
I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Responsory

℞. You are Peter, and it is upon this rock that I shall build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,* and I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

℣. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven,* and I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Second Reading

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

The martyrs had seen what they proclaimed

This day has been consecrated for us by the martyrdom of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. It is not some obscure martyrs we are talking about. Their sound has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. These martyrs had seen what they proclaimed, they pursued justice by confessing the truth, by dying for the truth.

The blessed Peter, the first of the Apostles, the ardent lover of Christ, who was found worthy to hear, And I say to you, that you are Peter. He himself, you see, had just said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ said to him, And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. Upon this rock I will build the faith you have just confessed. Upon your words, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God, I will build my Church; because you are Peter. Peter comes from *petra*, meaning a rock. Peter, "Rocky," from "rock"; not "rock" from "Rocky." Peter comes from the word for a rock in exactly the same way as the name Christian comes from Christ.

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, To you I am entrusting, what has in fact been entrusted to all. To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained. Quite rightly, too, did the Lord after his resurrection entrust his sheep to Peter to be fed. It is not, you see, that he alone among the disciples was fit to feed the Lord's sheep; but when Christ speaks to one man, unity is being commended to us. And he first speaks to Peter, because Peter is the first among the apostles. Do not be sad, Apostle. Answer once, answer again, answer a third time. Let confession conquer three times with love, because self-assurance was conquered three times by fear. What you had bound three times must be loosed three times. Loose through love what you had bound through fear. And for all that, the Lord once, and again, and a third time, entrusted his sheep to Peter. There is one day for the passion of two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching.

Responsory

℞. O Paul, teacher of truth and apostle of the Gentiles,* you are truly worthy of honour.

℣. Through you, all nations have known the grace of God:* you are truly worthy of honour.

Hymn

We praise you, O God: *
we acclaim you as the Lord.
Everlasting Father, *
all the world bows down before you.
All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers,
all the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending song:
*Holy, Holy, Holy, **
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled *
with your majesty and glory.
The glorious band of apostles, *
the noble company of prophets,
the white-robed army who shed their blood for Christ, *
all sing your praise.
And to the ends of the earth *
your holy Church proclaims her faith in you:
Father, whose majesty is boundless, *
your true and only Son, who is to be adored, *
the Holy Spirit sent to be our Advocate.
You, Christ, are the king of glory, *
Son of the eternal Father.
When you took our nature to save mankind *
you did not shrink from birth in the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the power of death *
opening the Father's kingdom to all who believe in you.
Enthroned at God's right hand in the glory of the Father, *
you will come in judgement according to your promise.
You redeemed your people by your precious blood. *
Come, we implore you, to our aid.
Grant us with the saints *
a place in eternal glory.
Lord, save your people *
and bless your inheritance.
Rule them and uphold them *
for ever and ever.
Day by day we praise you: *
we acclaim you now and to all eternity.
In your goodness, Lord, keep us free from sin. *
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
May your mercy always be with us, Lord, *
for we have hoped in you.
In you, Lord, we put our trust: *
we shall not be put to shame.

Let us pray.

Lord our God,
may the blessed apostles Peter and Paul
support us by their prayers.
Through them you first taught your Church the Christian faith.
Provide us now, by their intercession,
with help for our eternal salvation.
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.

Let us praise the Lord.
– *Thanks be to God.*

Te Deum

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

✠ O God, come to our aid.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

O Peter, who were named by Christ
The guardian-shepherd of his flock,
Protect the Church he built on you
To stand unyielding, firm on rock.
Apostle of the gentiles, Paul,
The greatest witness of them all,
You turned to Christ, the risen Lord,
When out of light you heard him call.
Unseen, eternal Trinity,
We give you glory, praise your name,
Your love keeps faith with those who fall:
Through time and change you are the same.

Psalm 63 Thirsting for God

“Let the man who has put away the deeds of the night watch for God.”

Antiphon: I know who it is that I have put my trust in,
and I am certain that he, the just judge,
will be able to take care of all
that I have had entrusted to me until that Day.

O Gód, you are my Gód, for you I lóng; *
for yóu my sóul is thirsting.
My bódy pines for yóu *
like a drý, weary lánd without wáter.
So I gáze on yóu in the sánctuary *
to sée your stréngth and your glóry.
For your lóve is bétter than life, *
my líps will spéak your práise.
So I will bléss you áll my life, *
in your náme I will lift up my hánds.
My sóul shall be filled as with a bánquet, *
my móuth shall práise you with jóy.
On my béd I reméber yóu. *
On yóu I múse through the night
for yóu have béen my hélp; *
in the sháadow of your wíngs I rejoyce.
My sóul clíngs to yóu; *
your ríght hand hólds me fást.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: I know who it is that I have put my trust in,
and I am certain that he, the just judge,
will be able to take care of all
that I have had entrusted to me until that Day.

Psalm-prayer:

This morning, Lord, we lift up our hands to praise you. We thirst for you; we long for you. Help us to love you more than life itself and fill us with good gifts from your banquet table. Amen.