

CONFESSION OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

COLLECT

Almighty Father, who didst inspire Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep thy Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 8-13

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.

Psalm 23

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|---|---|
| 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want. | for thou art with me; thy rod
and thy staff, they comfort me. |
| 2 He maketh me to lie down in
green pastures; * he leadeth
me beside the still waters. | 5 Thou preparest a table before
me in the presence of mine
enemies; * thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth
over. |
| 3 He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his
Name's sake. | 6 Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days
of my life; * and I will dwell
in the house of the LORD
forever. |
| 4 Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil; * | |

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 5: 1-4

As an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but

willingly, as God would have you do it-- not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 16: 13-19

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."

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