

**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.**

Cf. Sir 36:18

**THE 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,  
God, for ever and ever.

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

50:5-9

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**

Ps 114:1-6, 8-9. R.v9

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

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)**

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)**

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)**

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**

A reading from the letter of St James

2:14-18

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!**

Gal 6:14

**The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord,  
through whom the world is crucified to me,  
and I to the world.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mark 8:27-35

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.****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.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Cf. 1 Cor 10:16

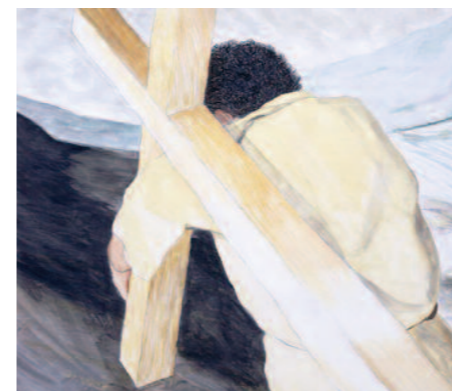
**The chalice of blessing that we bless  
is a communion in the Blood of Christ;  
and the bread that we break  
is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.**

**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.

# Our Faith on Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



This Gospel passage holds the key to  
Faith. "Who do you think I am?"  
Jesus asks his disciples. Who am I?  
Why are you following me? Am I  
one of the prophets? A forerunner of  
the Christ? of the 'anointed one', the  
one promised by God as the

fulfilment of his love for his people?  
No, says St. Peter. You are the one.  
"You are the Christ." In St.  
Matthew's Gospel, Peter says, "You  
are the Christ, the Son of the living  
God"; in other words, the one who  
comes, not as speaking for God, as  
the prophets; but speaking as God.  
Therefore the Lord could justly ask  
of those who followed him, that they  
be ready to lay down their lives for  
his teaching; that they accept his  
teaching as the ultimate truth; as  
leading safely and directly to final  
and eternal happiness. Why? because  
they are his words and he is God. As  
St. Peter said to Jesus on another  
occasion, "You have the words of

eternal life." Jeremiah announces, "If  
you walk in the way of God, you will  
walk in peace forever." And Isaiah,  
"By his knowledge shall the righteous  
one, my servant, make many to be  
accounted righteous." The Apostles  
taught it clearly: that believing in  
Jesus as God, the Son of God, and  
living and acting on his words is  
Faith.



### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



## SHAMELESS AGGRESSION

45. This has now given free rein to ideologies.  
Things that until a few years ago could not be  
said by anyone without risking the loss of  
universal respect can now be said with  
impunity, and in the crudest of terms, even by  
some political figures. Nor should we forget  
that "there are huge economic interests  
operating in the digital world, capable of  
exercising forms of control as subtle as they are  
invasive, creating mechanisms for the  
manipulation of consciences and of the  
democratic process. The way many platforms  
work often ends up favouring encounter  
between persons who think alike, shielding  
them from debate. These closed circuits  
facilitate the spread of fake news and false  
information, fomenting prejudice and hate".

## St Teresa's Way of Perfection\* GOD OUR JUDGE

God is the judge of your iniquities. If he is God, he is present  
everywhere. Where can you hide from his gaze or talk out of  
his hearing? If God were to come from the east to judge, you  
could hide in the west, and say whatever you like against him.  
If he came from the west, you could hide in the east and speak  
there. If he came from the mountain wilderness to judge, you  
could go into the middle of the crowds where you could safely  
mutter to yourself. But he comes from no place in particular  
to judge, for he is everywhere both hidden away and present  
before all.

None can understand God, yet none can remain ignorant of  
him; so see what you are doing, speaking iniquities against  
him. The Scriptures say elsewhere: 'The spirit of the Lord has  
filled the earth, and the surrounds of the entire universe have  
knowledge of his voice. Therefore those who speak iniquity  
cannot hide'.

So do not imagine that God exists in space. He is with you  
whether you are doing right or wrong, and you cannot disguise  
what you are doing. He is good to the good, and bad to the  
bad, your helper if you are good, and an avenger against you if  
you are bad.

\*Augustine of Hippo Edited by Oliver Davies Published by New City

