

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

Saint Peter and Saint Paul

Prayer for the Morning

*Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!*

HYMN

Meter: 87 87 D

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*

God, we praise you! God, we bless you!
God, we name you sov'reign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship,
Father, by your Church adored:
All creation shows your glory,
Heav'n and earth draw near your throne,
Singing, "Holy, holy, holy,
Lord of hosts, and God alone!"

True apostles, faithful prophets,
Saints who set their world ablaze,
Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded,
Join one growing song of praise,
While your Church on earth confesses
One majestic Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God our hope eternally.

PSALM 149

We do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves
as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. (2 Cor 4: 5)

Armed with the two-edged sword of God's word, Saints Peter and
Paul bound the hands of evil and brought the nations to joyful faith

in Jesus Christ. The Church, built upon their faith and fidelity, con-
tinues to bear responsibility for their task.

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.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honor is for all his faithful.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Romans 10: 14-15

HOW CAN THEY CALL on him
in whom they have not
believed? And how can they believe in him of whom
they have not heard? And how can they hear without
someone to preach? And how can people preach unless
they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the
feet of those who bring [the] good news!"

If today you hear God's voice, / harden not your hearts!

(cf. Ps 95: 7-8)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Text, back cover B)

Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. (2 Tm 4: 2)

INTERCESSIONS

You sent your apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations. With gratitude, we pray:

R Your word, O Lord, is spirit and life!

For the Pope and bishops to whom you have continued to entrust the apostolic task so faithfully carried out by Saints Peter and Paul:

– strengthen them to preach your Gospel by word and deed. **R**

For the whole Church to whom you have given the word of life through the ministry of the apostles:

– confirm your people in fidelity and zeal. **R**

For the world which awaits the good news:

– illumine those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. **R**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O Lord our God, you have given us this day of holy joy to celebrate the memory of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul; grant your Church wholehearted fidelity to their teaching. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS**Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**

“In their apostolic mission, Saints Peter and Paul were obliged to face difficulties of every kind. But, far from deterring their missionary activity, these difficulties reinforced their zeal for the Church’s welfare and for the salvation of mankind. They were able to overcome every trial because their trust was not based on human resources but on the grace of the Lord, who delivers his friends from every evil and saves them for his kingdom. May our holy patrons, Peter and Paul, sustain us and obtain for us that missionary zeal which made them witnesses of Christ to the ends of the then-known world” (Pope John Paul II).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These men, conquering all human frailty, shed their blood and helped the Church to grow. By sharing the cup of the Lord’s suffering, they became the friends of God.

GLORIA ————— **page 199****OPENING PRAYER**

God our Father,
today you give us the joy
of celebrating the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul.
Through them your Church first received the faith.
Keep us true to their teaching.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Praise to you, the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in your great mercy
have given us new birth and hope
through the power of Christ’s resurrection.
Through the prayers of the apostles Peter and Paul
may we who received this faith through their preaching
share their joy in following the Lord

to the unfading inheritance
reserved for us in heaven.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

● *Now I know for certain that the Lord rescued me
from the hand of Herod.* ●

**A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles**

12: 1-11

IN THOSE DAYS, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also. – It was the feast of Unleavened Bread. – He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, “Get up quickly.” The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, “Put on your belt and your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel

left him. Then Peter recovered his senses and said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting.”
The word of the Lord.

—• **PSALM 34** •—

R (5) **The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.**

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R**

Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears. **R**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him. **R**

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him. **R**

● *From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me.* ●

**A reading from
the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18**

I, PAUL, AM ALREADY being
poured out like a libation,

and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia. You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

● *You are Peter, and I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 16: 13-19

WHEN JESUS WENT into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the nether-

world shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO ————— page 201

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may your apostles join their prayers to our offering
and help us to celebrate this sacrifice in love and unity.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
You fill our hearts with joy
as we honor your great apostles:
Peter, our leader in the faith,
and Paul, its fearless preacher.
Peter raised up the Church
from the faithful flock of Israel.
Paul brought your call to the nations,
and became the teacher of the world.
Each in his chosen way gathered into unity
the one family of Christ.
Both shared a martyr's death
and are praised throughout the world.
Now, with the apostles and all the angels and saints,
we praise you for ever: Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Peter said: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered: You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church. (Mt 16: 16, 18)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
 renew the life of your Church
 with the power of this sacrament.
 May the breaking of bread
 and the teaching of the apostles
 keep us united in your love.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING OR PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The Lord has set you firm within his Church,
 which he built upon the rock of Peter's faith.
 May he bless you with a faith that never falters.
 Amen.

The Lord has given you knowledge of the faith
 through the labors and preaching of Saint Paul.
 May his example inspire you to lead others to Christ
 by the manner of your life.
 Amen.

May the keys of Peter, and the words of Paul,
 their undying witness and their prayers,
 lead you to the joy of that eternal home
 which Peter gained by his cross, and Paul by the sword.
 Amen.

May almighty God bless you,
 the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

 MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Peter and Paul

Peter and Paul were not first of all Christians and then, over and above that, apostles: their way of being Christ's disciples was to be apostles. For Paul the call to the apostolate did not differ from the grace of conversion: "God chose to reveal his Son to me, so

that I might announce..." (cf. Gal 1: 16). The Spirit of his apostolate was also the grace of his sanctification: "God himself... has marked us with his seal and given us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts" (cf. Cor 1: 22). Jesus was speaking of the apostles as much as when he said: "I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated" (Jn 17: 19). In the sacrament of order, as in that of confirmation, the Spirit produces a complex effect which cannot be broken up into its elements: he consecrates a Christian to Christ in his death and glory and thus makes him a sacrament for salvation. Sanctification and mission are inseparable, just as sonship and the mystery of the redemption are in Jesus.

FATHER FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DURRWELL

Father Durrwell († 2005) was a French Redemptorist priest and a professor of theology.

Prayer for the Evening

*Praised be the Lord,
 whom the apostles served!*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!*

HYMN

Meter: 76 76

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
 God Is My Strong Salvation*

Two stalwart trees both rooted
 In faith and holy love,
 By hope of God united
 They reach to heaven above.

One on a cross is martyred,
 One by the sword is slain;

Both triumph in their dying,
Both glorious sainthood gain.

The words of Paul assure us
Of Christ's redeeming word;
The works of Peter show us
How we may serve the Lord.

All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
Who with the Holy Spirit,
Now reign, blest Three in One.

CANTICLE

Revelation 2: 7, 17, 26; 3: 5, 12, 21

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15: 57)

Christ in glory makes these promises to "the victor," the one who perseveres in faith to the end, even in the face of suffering and death. Saints Peter and Paul surely stand at the center of the victorious throng and continue to pray for all of us still on the road!

To the victor I will give the right to eat from the tree
of life
that is in the garden of God.

To the victor I shall give some of the hidden manna;
I shall also give a white amulet upon which is inscribed
a new name,
which no one knows except the one who receives it.

To the victor, who keeps to my ways until the end,
I will give authority over the nations.

The victor will be dressed in white,
and I will never erase his name from the book of life
but will acknowledge his name
in the presence of my Father and of his angels.

The victor I will make into a pillar in the temple of my
God,
and he will never leave it again.
On him I will inscribe the name of my God
and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem,
which comes down out of heaven from my God,
as well as my new name.

I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my
throne,
as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father
on his throne.

Word of God

Philippians 2: 16-18

HOLD ON TO THE WORD of life,
so that my boast for the
day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor
in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon
the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share
my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should
rejoice and share your joy with me.

*Compete well for the faith.
Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called.*
(1 Tm 6: 12)

TE DEUM

(Text, back cover C)

They shall receive the splendid crown, / the beautiful diadem, from
the hand of the LORD. (cf. Wis 5: 16)

INTERCESSIONS

On the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul, pillars of the
Church, let us pray to Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

R Stay with your people, Lord!

You made of Simon Peter, the fisherman, a fisher of human souls:

– send new preachers in our day so that the multitudes may hear the word. *R*

You gathered the disciples around Peter after your resurrection:

– gather your people into a single flock, under a single shepherd. *R*

You sent your apostle Paul to preach the Gospel to the pagans:

– send your word to all peoples. *R*

You gave to your Church the keys of the kingdom:

– open the gates of heaven to all those who have put their faith in you. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

(cf. 2 Cor 13: 13)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 18)