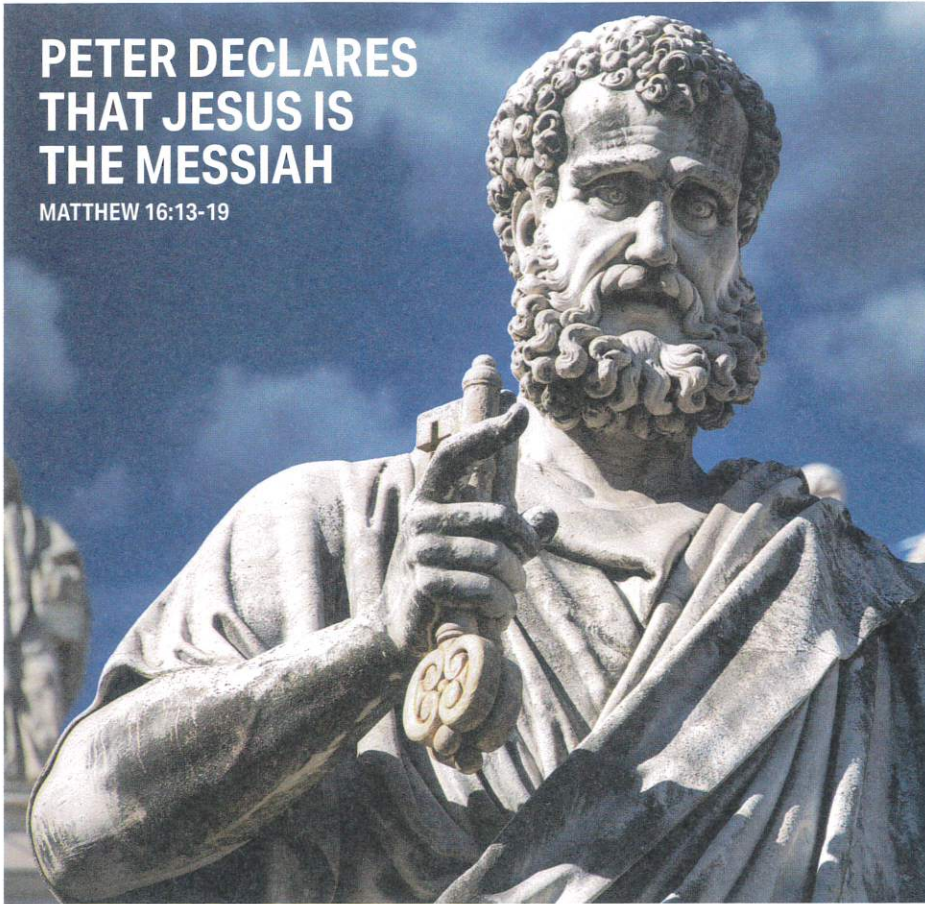


PETER DECLARES THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

MATTHEW 16:13-19



In today's Gospel, Jesus turns to his disciples with a question that cuts to the heart of faith: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

The disciples report the varied opinions of the crowds, highlighting the uncertainty and speculation surrounding Jesus' identity. Then he asks them directly, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responds with a decisive confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus affirms Peter's insight, declaring that it is not human reasoning but divine revelation that enables this recognition: "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." This moment establishes the foundation of the Church. The imagery of "binding and loosing" signals authority to guide the community in matters of faith and moral responsibility, while the "rock" metaphor underscores stability and continuity.

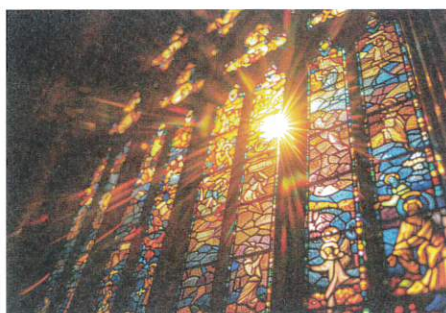
Matthew presents this episode as both personal and communal. Peter's confession is personal faith, yet it becomes the cornerstone for the wider Church, linking individual recognition of Christ with the structure and mission of the Christian community. The passage emphasises the interplay of revelation, faith, and responsibility in the life of discipleship. ■

DO

Take time to reflect on who Jesus is for you and let that shape the way you live each day.

LEARN

The Church teaches that faith in Christ is a gift from God, and that acknowledging him as Lord is the foundation of Christian life and the Church itself.



REFLECT

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's bold reply – "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" – marks a turning point. It is a moment of revelation, granted not by human insight but by God's grace. Peter's faith becomes the rock upon which Jesus will build his Church, entrusted with guiding the community through the challenges of faith.

On the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, we remember not only Peter's confession but also the courage both apostles displayed in proclaiming Christ to the world. Peter's leadership and Paul's missionary zeal remind us that faith is both personal and communal: it begins with recognition of who Christ is, and it grows in witness, service, and mission.

This Gospel invites us to consider our own response: who do we say that Jesus is in our lives? Like Peter and Paul, we are called to live that confession courageously, in word and deed. Our faith finds its strength in God's guidance, and every act of witness – however small – contributes to the building of Christ's Church today. ■

SAY

Lord Jesus,
Help me to know you and trust in you.
Give me the courage to live my faith and let it guide my choices each day.
Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.*

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

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 Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R. 5

R: From all my terrors the LORD set me free.

1. I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

4. The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who fear him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:18

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: 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, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied: You are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, O Lord,
who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
so to live in the Church,
that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
and in the teaching of the Apostles,
we may be one heart and one soul,
made steadfast in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*