

Readings, Collect and Year's Mind for Sunday 28th June 2020
St Peter's Day

The Collect for St Peter's Day is:

*Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.*

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for: Annie Brown, Dick Paxton, Ronald Duncan

FIRST READING Ezekiel 3: 22-27

The hand of the Lord was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The First Reading is from: Acts 12: 1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision.

After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 125

1. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
2. The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
3. The sceptre of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just,
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
4. Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.
5. As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers;
but peace be upon Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

***The Second Reading is:* 1 Peter: 2. 19-25 (Read by Laura Bird)**

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

***The Gospel Reading is:* Matthew 16: 13-19 (Read by Ian Gillespie)**

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.'

Give thanks to God for this his glorious Gospel. *Praise be to You Christ our Lord*