ENTRANCE ANTHOLOGY
O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. 

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the King, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT
Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with uncasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created. 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
Isaiah 55:1-3
A reading from the prophet Isaiah. Thus says the Lord, O come, to the water all you who are thirsty; to the fountains of living water.

PSALM
Psalm 144:2-3
Response: You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, and make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord.

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on them from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING
Romans 8:35-39
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or if we are persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, nor height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord. 

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

GOSPEL
Matthew 14:13-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist’s death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd, and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, “This is a lonely and a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “There is no need for them to go: give them what you have with you and feed them.” The disciples were horrified, but they gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave him to the crowds. They ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION
Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

”The friend who can be silent with us in injustice. There is plenty of food to go around if we are prepared to share. We must also do whatever we can to address inequality and poverty, if we are to be faithful to the Gospel. It is obvious that we need to re-examine our morals and ethics in light of the Gospel. The Gospel speaks of love and generosity. It echoes the kind of lavish love of St Paul who writes about in the second reading. Both challenge us in two ways. First, as individuals. They remind us that to be a Christian means to be generous. We must share – not just our money, but also our time, our love, our very selves with all who are in need. There is no such thing as the private Christian. Second, they challenge us as a community, a society. As Christians, it is not enough that we are charitable. We are also obliged to build a more just world. We cannot be indifferent to the poor, those who do not have enough to eat. Catholic social teaching is one of the Church’s greatest secrets. Most people know where the Church stands on sexual morality. And many think that sex (and money) are all the Church talks about. No matter what he does or doesn’t do, God loves him. He is absolutely certain of God’s love. Can you say the same thing? Make his profession of faith your profession of faith. Everyone who speaks about the Church must be a good Eucharist. As the Eucharist speaks of solidarity and community. We share the one meal, we call each other sisters and brothers. We offer each other the sign of peace, the sign of unity, and togetherness. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist.

What a saying: “Lord, help me to be the kind of person you want me to be, Amen.”

DO
In today’s second reading St Paul makes a wonderful profession of faith. He says there is nothing that can separate him from God’s love made visible in Christ: not persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger or even death. No matter what he does or doesn’t do, God loves him. He is absolutely certain of God’s love. Can you say the same thing? Make his profession of faith your profession of faith.

PRAY
Everything about the Eucharist speaks of solidarity and community. We share the one meal, we call each other sisters and brothers. We offer each other the sign of peace, the sign of unity, and togetherness. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist.

LEARN
Jesus is the bread of life.

The Christian is a passion for justice.

The Christian is always aware of the needs of others.
The word of the Lord.


In the name of the Lord.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in their land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosperous and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whatever I say is no pretense; I say it in union with Christ. It is the truth—conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ. It could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants, the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus had crossed over to the other side, the disciples were amazed. But he was alone, because they did not dare to ask him for fear he might say, “Depart from me, Simon son of John; for you are a Satan.” Then he got out of the boat and started walking on the lake.

REFLECT

One of the classic songs of the last half-century is “Bridge over Troubled Water.” At the time he wrote it, Paul Simon was influenced by Gospel music, and this influence comes across in the chorus of the song.

“When you’re weary, feeling small... When we’re up to our eyes, I will dry them all... They are safe, they are free...”

“True, God is infinite majesty, but he is also infinite goodness and infinite love. There can be a more ardent lover than he... St. Alphonsus Liguori!”

The words speak of offering comfort, solace, help, and hope. It is the assurance Jesus offers his frightened followers in today’s Gospel.

BRIEF ON THE WORD

THE WORD

Imagine the disciples’ panic. They are in the boat all by themselves when a storm begins to rage. It’s so bad the boat is in danger of sinking. They are full of fear. All seems lost... and then they see Jesus walking towards them, on the water.

Eager as ever, Peter asks Jesus if he, too, can walk on the water, and Jesus invites him to come to him. Peter climbs out of the boat, but the wind rises, and he begins to sink. Even Peter, the most important figure in the early Church, has a faith that falters in the midst of the storm.

Jesus saves him, and castigates him for his weak faith. As soon as they are back in the boat, the storm eases, the winds calm, and the awestruck disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

The message is clear: the boat represents the church, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. The boat will face many storms, but if the disciples make sure to recognise Jesus and trust in him, they will always be safe. Trust in God and an adventurous faith have the power to overcome doubting fear.

PRAY

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

DO

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of any storm in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face that storm. To have courage. To trust. To be not afraid. Think of the challenges and difficulties you and your loved ones are facing at this time. Ask the Lord’s help in facing them.

LEARN

It is okay to experience doubts and difficulties so long as we continue to trust in God.
GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you, we give thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O Lord, almighty God.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you are the Lord, you are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed into your most holy arms, at the moment of the Virgin Mary's Assumption, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. 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

Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6. 10

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; and Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm; he has rooted the proud heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly."

REFLECT

We Catholics have traditionally held Mary in the highest esteem. We rank her as first among the saints, and we honour her with feasts and titles because, in the words of Vatican II, she is “the Church's outstanding model in faith and love.” Mary is our model because she shows us better than anyone ever did, or ever will, what it means to be a disciple. Her whole life was a constant “yes” to God.

When the angel Gabriel told her at the announcement of God’s astonishing plan for her, she was surprised and afraid, but she did not allow her fear to overwhelm her. She answered, “Be it done unto me according to your word.” Her “yes” to God changed the course of history. It allowed God's Spirit to take hold of her so that the Son of God could take flesh in her midst. No one has ever listened more willingly or responded more generously to God.

In his public ministry, Jesus described the true disciple as one who hears the word of God and keeps it. That sums up Mary in a nutshell. She shows us what it means to listen and to keep God's word. She shows us the true meaning of faith and trust in God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

SECOND READING

Corinthians 13:2-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Now death has been swallowed up in victory.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

SAY

“Lord, thank you for giving me Mary as my mother. Help me to follow her example so that I may share in her son’s resurrection. Amen.”

PRAY

God, thank you for the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Thank you for her goodness. Thank you for her openness. Thank you for her generosity. Thank you for her faith. Thank you for her example. Thank you for her perseverance. Thank you for her faithfulness. Thank you for her obedience. Thank you for her hiddenness. Thank you for taking her up to heaven. Thank you for her prayers for us. Thank you for reminding us, through her, that we are made for heaven. Thank you for Mary, the mother of Jesus and thank you, God, for all your good gifts.

DO

Rejoice in good news. Pray for those who receive bad news. Ponder the joy and peace of the saints in heaven.

LEARN

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary. We celebrate our belief that Mary was taken up into heaven and into heaven, where she enjoys eternal life in the companionship of Jesus. It is a joyful feast for us Christians because it points to what we believe will happen to us. We believe that what God has done for Mary, God will do for us: that at last the time of God will come and he will bring us into the fullness of his good life for us all.

THE WORD

In today’s Gospel we hear Mary’s Magnificat. It is a joyful hymn of praise to God who has not forgotten his lowly handmaiden and has done such great things for her.

But it is also a subversive hymn, and it shows Mary to be a radical woman who hungers for justice for the poor and the little ones. Mary presents an image of God as one who pulls the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly, as one who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty. She voices God’s opposition to oppression, injustice and inequality of whatever kind.

Mary’s Magnificat hymn shows that she is not a gentle, passive, silent woman. She is, rather, a voice of the voiceless, and mother of all who are oppressed and overlooked and weak. Mary’s preferences and her hopes for our world are our preferences and our hopes.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

A Catholic liturgy leads us to pray at the end of the Mass, “Lord, have mercy on us.” A Catholic who truly believes will respond, “With our Lord.” Today we offer you the opportunity to take up this invitation. Write down what you believe and respond “with our Lord.”


ENTRANCE RAVENNA PSALM

Psalm 44

16 August 2020 Year A • Psalter Week 4 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant whom trust in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Glory

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you. We give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you will.

Psalms

Psalm 101

Response

Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.
1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you.
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and is haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading

Romans 13:3-5

A reading from the letter to St Paul to the Romans.
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, and we were entrusted to the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he put this question to his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say he is the John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” But then he asks, “Who do you say I am?” Then Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.”

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through one the son sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 28:18

Today’s Gospel is one of the most dramatic in Matthew. Jesus has been with his disciples for some time. They have listened to him speak and preach; they have watched him perform great miracles.

Now Jesus wants to see if they have come to realise just who he really is. He asks them, “Who do people say I am?” The disciples give him a variety of answers. “Some think you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” And then comes Jesus’ pointed question. “But you,” he asks them, “who do you say that I am?”

It is Peter who answers for all of them: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus congratulates Peter on getting the answer right, and tells him that he is going to be the rock upon which the Church will be built.

Today’s Gospel is not just about Peter and the church. It’s about Jesus and his self-disclosure. It’s about how we can know who Jesus is, and how we can come to believe and follow him.

Now Jesus asks the disciples: “Who do you say I am?” The disciples give different answers. Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But Peter says, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus ascertains that Peter has got it right. He promises that on this rock, he will build his Church. And he gives Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (16:13-20).

Today’s Gospel talks about Jesus’ identity. He asks his disciples who he is. Some think he is John the Baptist, others Elijah. But Peter says he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Now Jesus’ question is not just about himself. It’s about us too. Jesus wants to know what we believe about him and what we do.

No matter what happens, a personal relationship with Jesus is a gift. It requires us to really know who Jesus is and what he wants from us.

If we accept Jesus as the Christ, he helps us to know who we are and what we are called to do.

We can take time to think about who Jesus is and how we can grow closer to him. Let us pray for Pope Francis, who is such a great shepherd of our Church.

The Christian experience, Pope Francis emphasizes, is not just about being part of the Church, but about forming a personal relationship with Jesus. Imagine that Jesus is asking you the very same question that he put to his disciples that day in Caesarea Philippi. Who do you say Jesus is?

LEARN

The Christian experience, Pope Francis emphasizes, is not just about being part of the Church, but about forming a personal relationship with Jesus. Imagine that Jesus is asking you the very same question that he put to his disciples that day in Caesarea Philippi. Who do you say Jesus is?

Take some time today to pray for Pope Francis. He faces many challenges, including strong opposition from elements in the Church. Ask the Lord to help him in his difficult task.

If we accept Jesus as the Christ, he helps us to know who we are and what we are called to do.

PRAY

Take some time today to pray for Pope Francis. He faces many challenges, including strong opposition from elements in the Church. Ask the Lord to help him in his difficult task.

If we accept Jesus as the Christ, he helps us to know who we are and what we are called to do.

REFLECT

Jesus asked them the safe question first, the easy question: “Who do others say that I am?” It was safe and easy because it required no commitment and no risk.

Throughout our lives as Catholics we hear all sorts of questions. We have to answer them in some way. We have to answer them in some way. We have to answer them in some way. We have to answer them in some way. We have to answer them in some way.

Asking the easy question was Jesus’ way of teasing up the hard question, the one he really wanted to ask, the personal question: “OK, that’s what other people say, but who do you, my closest friends, say that I am?”

He wants to know what we think of him. He wants to know what we think of him. He wants to know what we think of him. He wants to know what we think of him. He wants to know what we think of him.

We can also reflect on what we think of Jesus. Is he just a religious figure? Is he just a religious figure? Is he just a religious figure? Is he just a religious figure? Is he just a religious figure?

In today’s Gospel Jesus is saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What does this mean for us? What does this mean for us? What does this mean for us? What does this mean for us? What does this mean for us?
In today’s Gospel Jesus prepares his disciples for the ordeal he is about to face in Jerusalem.

He tells them he will suffer greatly and be put to death, and that he will be raised up on the third day. The disciples are appalled. Just a little earlier Peter had declared Jesus to be the Messiah. In the Jewish mind the Messiah was associated with glory and victory, not suffering and death. If Jesus was the Messiah, he could not suffer and die.

Peter decides to point this out to Jesus. “Heaven preserve you, Lord,” he says. “This must not happen to you.” But Jesus turns on Peter and denounces him in harsh language: “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path.” Peter must have been gobsmacked by the violence of Jesus’ response. Only a short while before, Jesus had told Peter he would be the rock upon which he would build his Church; now Jesus tells him that what he has said is valid; Peter has spoken against the realm of Satan.

Without realising it, Peter was playing the role of Satan, tempting Jesus to follow the path of an earthly messiah, full of glory and prestige, rather than keep to his Father’s plan. Peter failed to understand the mission of Jesus. For Jesus, the only thing that mattered was proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom. He knew that he would not like his message, and that it would ultimately cost him his life. But he knew too that if it came to a choice between Jesus’ skin or being true to his Father, there was only one decision he could make. He could not betray God even if it meant saving his life because it would be death for him; he would no longer be united with God.

Jesus knew that fidelity to the Father would mean having to take up his cross, and that anyone who wished to follow him would have to take up his or her cross too. But he knew too that if it came to a choice between Jesus’ skin or being true to his Father, there was only one decision he could make. He could not betray God even if it meant saving his life because it would be death for him; he would no longer be united with God.

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