

Today we honor our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all who have been like mothers to us. Peter's words in today's second reading apply to many of them, for they have been cornerstones in our lives, chosen and precious. In the Gospel Jesus teaches his disciples that he shows the way to his Father. Many of us were shown the way to faith by our mothers. Let us pray for them today

As we gather together let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith: Page 102

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 men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you are the way that leads to freedom from the slavery of sin:	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the truth that reveals the tender mercy of the Father:	Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the way that leads to the heavenly dwelling place:	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

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.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading Page 36

A reading from the Act of the Apostles

Acts 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose

Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Page 36

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting.

Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. **R/.**

Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. **R/.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine. **R/.**

Second Reading Page 38

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: *Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.* Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.* They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Page 38

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

The first reading addresses one of the challenges of the early church: serving a growing number of disciples with only a handful of leaders. Initially, the flock of newly baptized Christians looked to the Twelve for leadership, whether it was leading worship, preaching the word of God, or serving the widows and the poor. However, with sometimes three thousand persons added in a single day (recall last Sunday's first reading), the Twelve were not enough. A solution was found in realizing a related issue. The Twelve were all Aramaic-speaking Galileans. However, much of the church was now made up of Greek-speaking Hellenists from elsewhere in the region. Therefore, the Twelve selected seven (a number that meant perfection) reputable Hellenists to lead as well. (The reading suggests they were put in charge of feeding the hungry, but later in Acts we hear of them preaching and leading in worship.) The burgeoning church had solved an initial challenge: finding enough shepherds to serve the growing flock.

Though the church was made up of men and women of many nations, speaking various languages, coming from divergent backgrounds, Peter emphasizes that they are unified in Jesus Christ, the cornerstone. Echoing the Old Testament, he asserts that they are together one race, one nation, one people. Diverse in many ways, but unified as Christians.

"No one comes to the Father except through me," Jesus said to his disciples (John 14:6). For some Christians, this line has become a weapon to be used against those who are not Christian, denying them the possibility of salvation. But notice, when Jesus said these words he was speaking to his disciples in response to Thomas's fear that they would not know how to follow him to the Father. So Jesus tells them that he is the way, the truth, and the life. For his disciples, this was the best answer to their question. Salvation is open to all, whether you know Jesus well or even at all. For us as Christians, we are blessed to have this way to follow.

Question - How can I serve the Church more fully? What can I do to contribute to Jesus' mission?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Trusting in the Lord, who promised that he would prepare a place in his Father's home for all his disciples, we bring our prayers before God.

- For the Church, that we may find ways to both preach the word and serve our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

- For elected leaders, that they may serve with humility all the people in their care, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

- For an end to gun violence in our community and in our nation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and expectant mothers, that they may know the value of their nurturing presence in the love of their families, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

- For all of us here today, that we may find comfort in the Lord when our hearts are troubled and extend that comfort to others whose hearts are also troubled, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else should we pray? _____ let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of all, you sent your only Son to a sinful people and he shows us the way back to you. Help us always to keep his way firmly in our sights as we make these prayers to you in his name, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: Page 134

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ☩ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**