

Suggested Opening Song: Gather Us In, #141

Today we hear Jesus challenge his disciples. “Who do you say that I am?” he asks them, after asking them what others say. Saint Peter responds at once, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” We are the disciples who Jesus challenges now. How do we answer this question? As we encounter him here today and receive him in the Eucharist, let us think of who Jesus is for us.

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

Profession of Faith p. 142

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 forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Opening Prayer:

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 promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 76

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut; when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

R/. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

R/. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple. **R/.**

I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. **R/.**

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! *For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?* For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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 netherworld 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." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- By this point, Peter had witnessed Jesus performing many miracles, from the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to walking on water. He had seen him heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, and drive out demons. But when Peter identifies him as "the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus says that it is his Father who has

revealed this to him, not what he has witnessed him do in the flesh (Matthew 16:16). It is the gift of faith, which Peter received from God the Father, that enables him to identify the Son. We received the gift of faith from God in baptism, and through that gift God's Son is also revealed to us. What others may see as bread and wine, we recognize as our Lord's Body and Blood as we receive it in the Eucharist.

- We are Jesus' disciples, so he asks us now just as he'd asked the Twelve then, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). Our answer may depend on the stage of life we're in, the recency of traumatic events, or our tendency to doubt. May we rest assured that Jesus is always ready to be recognized, through prayer, through the Word, through the Eucharist, or through our neighbor. Answering this question may always be a challenge, but we pray that we may continue to grow in wisdom and understanding.
- While Saint Peter immediately identifies Jesus as the Messiah as the rest of the apostles struggle with the question, Saint Paul grapples with the fact that so many of the people Jesus came to save don't accept him as the Messiah. He concludes that trying to understand God's plan is impossible: "How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!" (Romans 11:33). This is where the gift of faith comes in. Paul famously did not receive that gift until traveling the road to Damascus to persecute those who had already received the gift. Peter's own faith wavered on the choppy waters of the Sea of Galilee. Hebrews says, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Blest are we to have been given this gift without being able to understand the mind of God.

Question of the Week

Who do I say that Jesus is?

Prayer of the Faithful:

God's love is eternal, and so we have the confidence that the prayers we make here today will be heard.

- For Pope Leo, that he may grow in wisdom and courage as he follows in the footsteps of Saint Peter, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those in positions of leadership—in government, business, or family—that they may exercise their authority with forbearance and fairness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those threatened by floods, hurricanes, and other storms of summer, that they may be kept safe, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For young people returning to school, that their curiosity and love for learning may be rekindled by a new school year, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For each of us in this faith community, that we may sharpen our eyes to recognize the Christ, the Son of the living God, in our sisters and brothers in need, 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.**

Loving God, you have revealed your Son to us, and continue to reveal him anew each day. May our words and actions help us to reveal him to all those we meet. Hear this and all our prayers, through the One whom we reveal, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 176

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.

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:

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

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

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King, #203