

Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter
18 January 2023

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule, you received gifts from the magi.

Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, Servant Lord;
**teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the promised reign of God.**

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Acts 4.8-13

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the religious authorities, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters. You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Gospel: Matthew 16.13-19

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now 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.”

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Intercessions, Petitions and Thanksgivings

On this Sunday of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, let us remember the congregations and communities of the New Westminster Ministerial Association:

- The Salvation Army;
- St. Mary's Sapperton;
- The Union Gospel Mission;
- The Lighthouse of Hope;
- Holy Trinity Cathedral;
- Connaught Heights Pentecostal;
- Queens Park Care Centre;
- Queens Avenue United Church;
- St. Barnabas; Holy Eucharist Cathedral;
- Olivet Baptist Church; Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish;
- Trinity Presbyterian;
- Beacon Unitarian Church;
- St. Peter Roman Catholic Church;
- Shiloh Fifth Avenue United;
- Mount Zion Lutheran.

A period of silence is kept for you to offer your own needs and concerns.

We pray today for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition: Lord, we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible: Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the refugees and uprooted people in this world: Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our churches in this changing world: Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on Christ so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray.

Living God, accept the offering of your holy Church. As Peter confessed Jesus, the Messiah and your Son, give us courage to follow him, the Lord who reigns with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them even to the end of the age. And so, with Peter and the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heave, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of

Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,

and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us,

light in the midst of us,

bring us to light and life.

The Invitation to Communion

Behold who you are.

Become what you see.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

If you are not physically receiving Communion, then offer this prayer.

In union, O God, with all your faithful people gathered wherever the eucharist is celebrated this day, I offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I pray you come into my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. May I serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your promised reign of justice and peace; through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit. **Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Keep us, Father, in this fellowship of faith, the Church of your Son Jesus Christ, and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord in all we say and do. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace and proclaim that Jesus is the Christ.
Thanks be to God.