

THE HOLY APOSTLE PETER

Apostle and Martyr

First Reading

Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

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 realise 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."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 34

Response: *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its
boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

R.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

R.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard
him

and rescued him from all his distress.

R.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue
them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

R.

Second Reading

2 Tim 4:6-18

A reading from the second letter to Timothy

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mtt. 16:13-19

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

You are Peter; and I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven

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." For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.