



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: 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,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
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.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)

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

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

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

A Reading from the Letter of St. 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

Alleluia:

Matthew 16:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Matthew 16:13-20

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

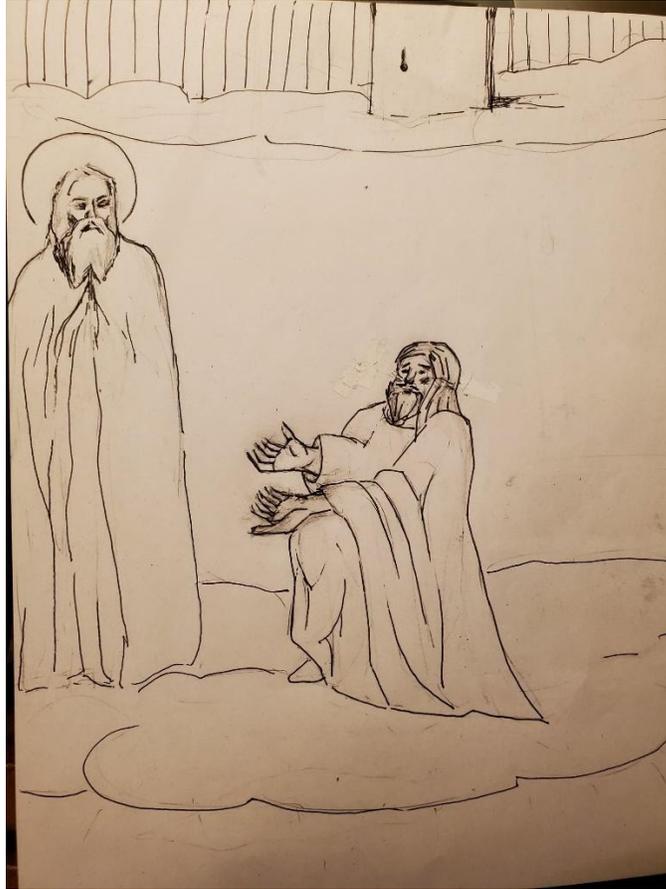
The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

Homi-flection for the Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by Fr. Joe Kim

Have you ever lost your keys? I'm going to guess many of you have, or at the very least, "misplaced" them for a period of time (...as if wording it that way makes us feel better). Can you recall the awful feeling of panic? Of distress? Frustration? Stress? Anger? Well, you get idea! Now imagine losing the *keys to the kingdom of Heaven!*



St. Peter before God

God: "What do you mean you misplaced the keys?"

How would you feel? What would occupy your thoughts? How do you comprehend such a moment? What would you do? How would you take responsibility for the loss before God? And finally, the question that is at the heart of this homi-flection: What would be lost?

To answer truly answer this question, we need to work backwards. One would first need to understand what was entrusted to St. Peter when Jesus gives him the "keys to the kingdom of heaven." What blessings were given? What graces flow from this loving gift from Jesus? Our gospel today helps us to comprehend this great mystery, and to aid in our reflection, let me offer the follow diagram:



Jesus asks his disciples: “Who do you say that I am?” There are numerous ways that one can answer this question, and indeed, the people of Jesus’ time did just that. But it is only Peter who gives the correct response: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Take a moment and reflect on this awesome revelation! Jesus is the truest, most authentic, real and actual presence of God here on Earth! Jesus is God! Our Christ and savior! Have you ever desired to experience and encounter in fullest manner possible, the love, compassion, mercy, tenderness, care, comfort of God? This perfect embodiment of this grace is Jesus (represented by the cross on the diagram) – Jesus is the primary sacrament. Following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, the “next best” experience, encounter, and embodiment of grace is the Church, built upon Peter when he was entrusted the “keys to the kingdom of heaven” (represented by the Church & keys in the diagram). The Church is the fundamental sacrament, the vehicle through which the primary sacrament (Jesus), is revealed/given to us. It is through the Church, we receive the 7 Sacraments – with each sacrament bestowing, transforming, nourishing, and healing us with specific gifts of grace signified by the signs and actions unique in each given sacrament.

What would happen without these “keys to the kingdom of heaven”? What would be lost if the “keys” were lost? We would lose the Church; the gift established by Jesus for all of His people to come, know, and follow Him! We would lose the extraordinary gifts of grace, each special and unique to each sacrament! We would lose the new life, the healing, the nourishment – the way by which we are joined to the Body of Christ! The grace that bestows forgiveness of sins and reconciliation that allows us to truly love God and one another would be made void.

Today, we celebrate in awe and wonder at our God who grants such power to those called to serve His Church! May you continue to discover and allow the grace and love of God to permeate every corner of your being and life! Let us be like Peter, and come to truly recognize and follow Jesus, the Christ, son of the living God.

Nicene Creed:

ALL: 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)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

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

Presider: We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

Intercessions:

1. For our Roman Catholic Church and the Our Savior Parish community, that we may seek the ways of God in all things: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

2. For Pope Francis, Archbishop Jose Gomez, all bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers, that their ministry may be the key that unlocks to all the wonder of God's love and mercy: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

3. For those in government and public service, that they may seek the peace and justice of God in all human affairs: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

4. For educators and teachers preparing for the new academic year, that they may guide their students in discovering "the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of God: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

5. For the sick, the poor, the abused, and for those in need, that the care and compassion we extend to them may proclaim our faith in Christ, the Son of the living God: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

6. For those who have died in the peace of Christ, that they may live anew in the light of God's presence: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.

All: Lord, hear us.

Presider: We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

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.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider: 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.

All: Amen