



**Welcome to a  
Service of the Word  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
The Feast of St Peter and St  
Paul**

**The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

**Hymn**

**Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Invitation to confession**

Jesus said to his apostles,  
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.'

*John 15.14*

Let us now confess our disobedience to him.

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution**

May the God of love and power  
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,  
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **New Testament Reading**

#### **Acts 12.1–11**

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 realize 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.'

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn**

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 16.13–19**

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.'

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**Profession of faith**

Let us profess our faith in God together.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
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.**

**We 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 worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*This response may be used:*

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

At the *end*:

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into  
temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul  
glorified you in their death as in their life:  
grant that your Church,  
inspired by their teaching and example,  
and made one by your Spirit,  
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,

Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Hymn(s)**

**Notices**

**The Blessing**

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations,  
bring you, with Peter and Paul and all the saints,  
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

**Exit Music**

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