**Please Take Spare Pew Bulletins** to anyone housebound or absent from church.

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Before** the service, talk to God.

During the service, listen to God.

After the service, talk with each other.

 Today we celebrate the two great missionaries of the apostolic period. In the Gospel reading we see Jesus telling Peter to follow him – and Peter quibbling over the role of the Beloved Disciple. In the Epistle reading we see Paul at the end of his ministry, confidently declaring that God will grant him the crown of righteousness. He says, ‘The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom.’

* Lord, may I follow you willingly and freely, and may I have confidence in being numbered among those in your heavenly kingdom.
* Give thanks for work and witness of the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai,* The Anglican Church of Japan

*Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2025*

**FAITH BOOK:** Mini-reflections on the Sunday scripture readings designed for persons on the run.

**From today’s reading from Gospel reading:**

Jesus 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 Johan. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

**Reflection:**

Our modern church has much work to do in the name of Jesus and we face various challenges to our identity as his followers. In one way or another we are frequently asked, "Who do you say Jesus is?" We are invited to trust today that the One who blessed Peter with rock-like faith, so that he could respond to that question, will also provide us the faith we need, so that we can respond in words and actions----"Jesus is the anointed one, the Son of the living God." Perhaps people won’t even have to ask about the object of our faith, they will see the characteristic signs of it in our daily lives.

**So, we ask ourselves:**

* Who or what have most challenged my faith in Jesus?
* What response did I make to that challenge?
* Was I aware of the presence of God helping me make that response?

*Jude Siciliano, OP,*

*Southern Dominican Province, USA*

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Flawed men!**

It is easy to think of both Sts. Peter and Paul as super-human beings. However, that is to forget their human weaknesses. There is Peter, who fearing for his own safety, would deny he knew Jesus three times, and Paul spent half his life persecuting Jesus’ followers. While both flawed men came to follow Jesus from very different ways, they both had complete trust to follow on the Lord’s narrow path. To trust this way is certainly not easy especially when something terrible happens in one’s personal life as you will see in this short story by MoralStories26.com.

Once there was a man who climbed mountains. One day he decided to climb a particular mountain and was so confident in his own abilities that he didn’t even bother to plan ahead.

When he was halfway up, he stopped to have some food and thanked God for giving him the chance to see this beautiful world from this height. He tarried a bit longer than he should have and soon the sun was setting. The climber couldn’t see anything and lost his way. He thought God would protect him and with his faith he kept climbing.

While reaching out over an outcropping ledge, he slipped and fell, falling at great speed. All of a sudden, he felt the rope tied to his waist pull him very hard. He stopped falling and his body hung limp in the air. In that moment of stillness, he screamed, “Help me God..!”

All of a sudden a deep voice answered, “What do you want me to do?” Man replied, “Save me.”

God said, “Do you really believe that I can save you?”

Man replied, “Of course, I believe.”

God asked, “Will you do exactly as I tell you?”

Man replied, “Of course, I will do whatever you ask of me.”

“Then trust in me and cut the rope tied to your waist – free yourself and your will be saved,” God replied.

There was a moment of silence. Rope was the only thing that was keeping him from falling; the man began to weep and clutched the rope tighter as cold, and darkness wrapped itself around him. The Voice spoke to him no more.

Next morning, a rescue team reported that the climber was found dead and frozen. His hands still clutched to the rope. He was hanging only three feet above the ground.

How many of us trust the Lord in this same way?

*Barbara Molinari Quinby, MPS, Director*

*Office of Human Life, Dignity, and Justice Ministries*

*Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral,Raleigh, NC*

**\*\*\*\*\***

Our world is full of gods that are alluring, and God has made us free to choose which god will be our ultimate concern, to choose which path we will follow as we seek to find our way home. We can believe in many things and serve many masters. The choice you make is the most important choice of your life.

*Craig Uffman*

***Choose Whom You Will Serve***

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Monastic Wisdom**

**Relationship**

Steadfast and generous, God keeps calling and graciously engaging. God is more than the friend at midnight who will answer our call. Like a heavenly parent, God gives good gifts, indeed gives God’s own self in the Holy Spirit to be with us fully. God invites us into an ever-developing relationship, a life of learning to pray.

*Br. Luke Ditewig, SSJE*

**Strength**

As we spend time with God, the Spirit is quietly replenishing us. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we feel more alive, and we have a new courage and strength to face the challenges of this world. We are more able, because we are nourished by God, to play our part in bringing justice, peace and hope into our broken and hurting world.

*Br. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE*

**Intuition**

Straightforward propositions and normal discourse are the building blocks of a functional human society. But metaphor, simile, figure, image, and riddle sharpen intuition: our capacity to receive truth directly from the unconscious within, and our sensitivity to revelation from the Holy Spirit.

*Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE*

**\*\*\*\*\***

If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive.

*Mother Teresa*

**\*\*\*\*\***

Love forgives many mistakes, while hatred imagines mistakes even where they do not exist...

*St. John Chrysostom*

**In the Eucharist**, with the Risen Jesus present as our food, we are worshipping with the saints and angels in heaven. But the risen Jesus who is the heart of the heavenly worship is also a Jesus who was crucified, and we share in heaven’s worship only as sharing also in the Jesus who suffers in the world around us, reminding us to meet him there and to serve him in those who suffer. Indeed in the Eucharist we are summoned by two voices, which are really one voice: ‘Come, the heavenly banquet is here. Join with me and my mother and my friends in the heavenly supper.’ ‘Come, I am here in this world in those who suffer. Come to me, come with me, and serve me in them.

*Archbishop Michael Ramsey*

**\*\*\*\*\***

Joy is a choice. Our lives are so short; to live with joy seems to be a no-brainer. Why waste time on issues that we can’t control? Your body holds memories of both joyful and difficult moments in your life. Think about something that made you angry, and your body will supply the distress and angst to go with the memory. Think about joy and happy moments in your life, and your whole body smiles. Joy offers a peace that surpasses all understanding. Once you experience joy, once you find those inner pathways, it leaves markers toward those inner resources so that you never lose sight of them again….

*Dr. Barbara Holmes*