

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let
myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the
stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my
heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not
bear it.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 62 (63):2-6, 8-9

Response:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
- So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
- For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship
him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking
beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy
sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model
yourselves on the behaviour of the world
around you, but let your behaviour change,
modelled by your new mind. This is the only
way to discover the will of God and know what
is good, what it is that God wants, what is the
perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples
that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and
suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and
chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and
to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking
him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with
him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this
must not happen to you.' But he turned and
said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an
obstacle in my path, because the way you think
is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone
wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce
himself and take up his cross and follow me. For
anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but
anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.
What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole
world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to
offer in exchange for his life?
'For the Son of Man is going to come in the
glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he
does, he will reward each one according to his
behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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,
(all bow during the next three lines)

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

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord,
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that
we should enclose them in books, but that we
should engrave them upon our hearts.

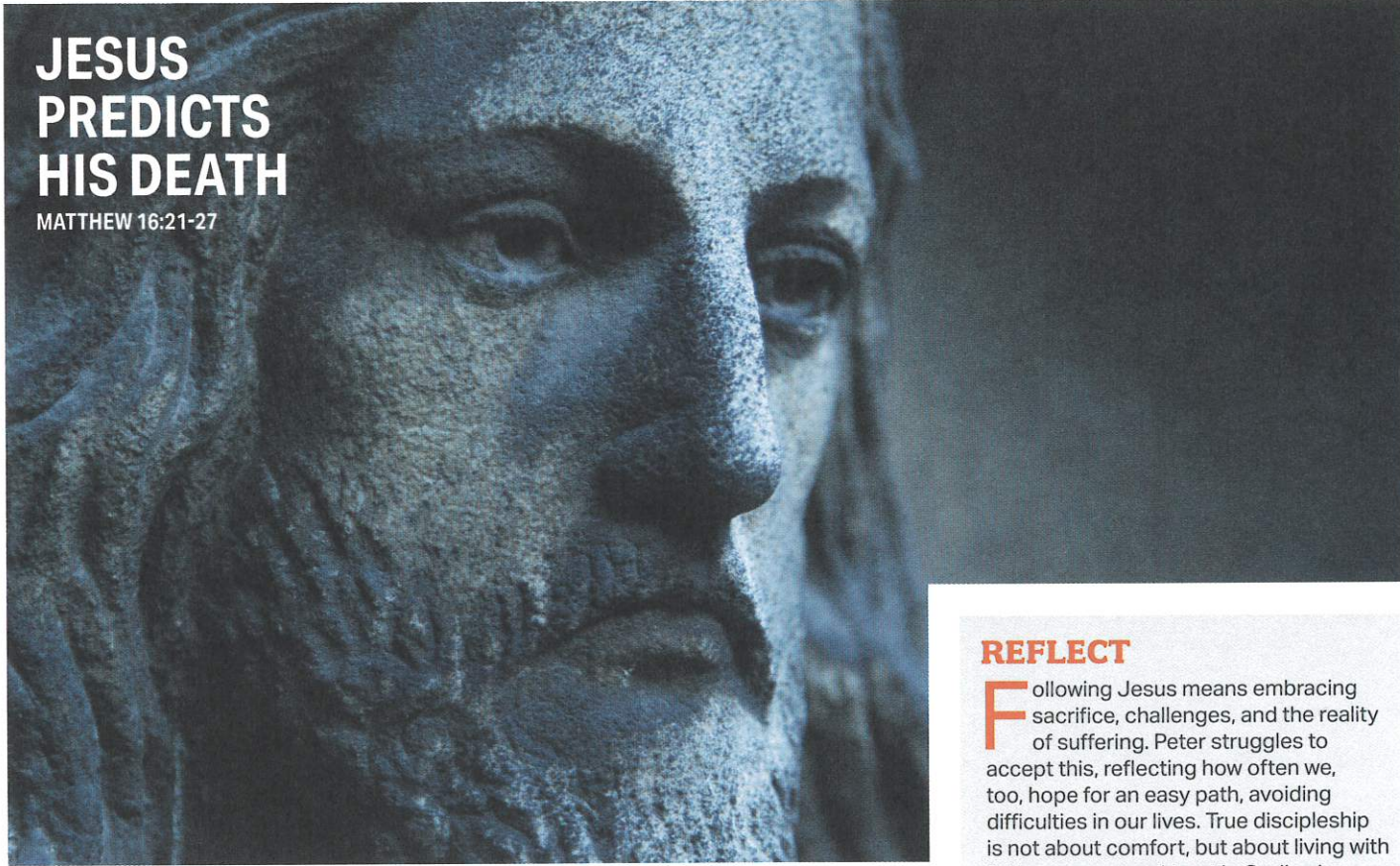
St John Chrysostom

Sunday Message

THE WORD

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

MATTHEW 16:21-27



In this passage, Jesus begins to reveal to his disciples the necessity of his suffering, death, and resurrection. This marks a turning point in Matthew's Gospel: the Messiah is not only the triumphant Son of God but also the suffering servant, fulfilling God's plan for salvation. Jesus speaks plainly about what lies ahead, preparing the disciples to understand the true nature of his mission.

Peter's reaction — rebuking Jesus — reveals a common human expectation: the desire for a triumphant Messiah who avoids suffering. Jesus' response, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me," underscores that even well-meaning intentions can conflict with God's will. Following Christ requires embracing God's plan, even when it challenges our understanding or comfort.

Jesus then calls the disciples to a radical form of discipleship: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross." True life is found in self-giving, and those who seek to save their lives apart from God risk losing them. Conversely, surrendering to God's will brings eternal life. Matthew emphasizes that faith in Christ is inseparable from a willingness to follow him, even in sacrifice, and that ultimate reward is found in God's kingdom. ■

LEARN

True life and eternal reward come not from
avoiding sacrifice, but from surrendering to
God's will and living in love and service.

DO

This week, notice one area of your life where
following Christ asks for patience, honesty, or
self-giving, and take one concrete step to act
faithfully, even if it's difficult.

REFLECT

Following Jesus means embracing
sacrifice, challenges, and the reality
of suffering. Peter struggles to
accept this, reflecting how often we,
too, hope for an easy path, avoiding
difficulties in our lives. True discipleship
is not about comfort, but about living with
faith, courage, and trust in God's plan.

Jesus calls each of us to a radical way
of life: "If anyone wishes to come after
me, let him deny himself and take up
his cross." This does not mean seeking
suffering for its own sake but rather being
willing to put God and others first, even
when it costs us. Small, everyday crosses
— patience with difficult people, acts of
honesty, generosity, or standing up for
what is right — are part of this calling.

At the same time, Jesus promises hope:
surrendering ourselves to God and
following him brings life, not loss. The
Gospel invites us to face challenges with
faith, to choose love and integrity over
ease, and to trust that God transforms
our sacrifices into blessings for ourselves
and others. True life is found in living
with purpose, faith, and courage in the
footsteps of Christ. ■

SAY

"My God, I offer you all my crosses
with love, that they may unite me
more closely to your Son."
St. Francis de Sales

