

GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!

struck down by God, and afflicted.
5But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
6All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all....
7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
9They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth. [© NRSV]

But of course Peter was a simple, devout working man, not a Scriptural Scholar. The highly educated people who knew the prophecies were not willing to accept the prophets' words where Jesus was concerned. Pharisees, Scribes, the High Priesthood and the law court justices of the Sanhedrin knew the Scripture. Their very careers were threatened if Jesus prevailed. They cried out for his death. And they got it.

Please prepare St. John 2:13-22 for next Sunday.

Lenten Solemn Prayer over the People

Deacon or Celebrant. Bow down before the Lord.
All kneel

Celebrant

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy. that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace. that may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome

The *Foot of St. Peter* is a statue in St. Peter's that was created by Arnolfo di Cambio in the 13th century. For centuries, tens of thousands of pilgrims have come to the basilica and touched or kissed this beautiful sculpture.

Today's Gospel St. Mark 8:31-38

✠ THEN HE BEGAN TO TEACH THEM THAT THE SON OF MAN MUST

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undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' [© NRSV]

A Peculiar Choice

Peter was nothing if not exuberant. He dropped everything, even his livelihood, and became a disciple. He jumped out of the boat and tried to imitate Jesus' walking on the Sea of Galilee. He boasted that he would never deny Christ - one wonders what his face looked like when he heard that rooster crow. He was ready to pull his sword against the troops, according to John, the 100 troops, who came to arrest Jesus. He ran to the empty tomb, running so fast that he could not stop, bursting through the entrance to behold the empty shroud. He beheld the Resurrected in the Upper Room and was told to go spread the word, yet he amazingly went out once again with some of the disciples and, instead, spread his nets until Jesus called him and six other disciple/fishermen to the shore. The impetuous one once again leapt into the sea. This time he did not try to walk on the water but rather he swam 100 yards or so to be at Jesus side.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

It was this "sow's ear" that Jesus made into the "silk purse" leader of the Apostles.

Today we see him at one of his lowest points. He has walked with Christ for perhaps 3 years. He has just said:

8:29 He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. (St. Mark 8:29-30)

In these words that directly precede the text of today's passage Peter declared Jesus (*Salvation* or *He Who Saves*) to be the Messiah (*The Anointed One* [of God]) and now Jesus dashes his fondest hopes. We might imagine his thoughts:

"*Salvation the Anointed One* is going to get killed? What in the world is the man saying? Has he lost his mind? Have I wasted all this time for nothing? I could have been making real money in my fishing boat, and here I am with a man who has a death wish."

Of course the real problem is that despite Peter's protestations of Faith, he and the others had no real understanding of the loving nature of God/man. He has yet to put it together that he walks with the "Suffering Servant" mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah. Remember Isaiah's words? Note especially Verses 3 through 9.

Isaiah 53:1-9

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account....

4Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,