



Liturgy Cycle A

# Twenty-First Sunday Of The Year

## Peter

### **Introduction**

In today's liturgy we will look at Peter, the man Christ chose to be the chief shepherd of his flock. We will see Peter's ups and down's, his strengths and weaknesses, as well as the love Christ showed him which helped him to grow.

### **First reading (Isaiah 22: 19-23)**

This reading talks about one man being dismissed from his office, and the keys of authority being passed to another.

### **Second Reading (Romans 11: 33-36)**

This contains a hymn of joyful praise to the wisdom of God, which is far too deep for us to fathom.

### **Gospel (Matthew 16: 13-20)**

Peter makes a marvelous declaration of faith in Christ, and Christ tells him the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that we may learn from the example of Peter to follow Christ more closely.

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**For the pope: that he may be a worthy representative of Christ on earth. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**For all leaders: that they may learn from their mistakes and failures. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**For parents, teachers, and all those connected with youth: that they may help them to grow by showing them patient love and understanding. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**



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**That we may recognize Christ not as only our Lord and Saviour, but as a friend who loves us with rocklike love. We pray in faith.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**A child was sitting by a wall  
when suddenly a toad emerged from a hole.  
She quickly spread out her silk scarf before him,  
the kind which toads love to walk on.**

**As soon as the toad saw a scarf  
it went into the hole  
and soon returned carrying a little gold crown  
which it laid on the scarf and went back into the hole again.**

**The girl immediately picked up the crown  
and put it into her pocket.  
Before long the toad came out again,  
but when it did not see the crown on the scarf,  
it crept to the wall and from sorrow  
beat its little head against the wall  
until it finally collapsed and died.  
Had the girl let the crown lie where it was,  
the toad would surely have brought  
out more of its treasures from the cave.**

**In order to help people to grow,  
we must first help them to believe in their goodness,  
and then help them to share it.  
This calls for patience and unselfishness.**