

**28 June 2015**

## **Peter and Paul**

### **Collect of the Day**

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.

### **First Reading**

*Zechariah 4.1-6a, 10b-14*

<sup>1</sup>The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. <sup>2</sup>He said to me, 'What do you see?' And I said, 'I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. <sup>3</sup>And by it there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' <sup>4</sup>I said to the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?' <sup>5</sup>Then the angel who talked with me answered me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' <sup>6</sup>He said to me, <sup>10</sup>'These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth.' <sup>11</sup>Then I said to him, 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?' <sup>12</sup>And a second time I said to him, 'What are these two branches of the olive trees, which pour out the oil through the two golden pipes?' <sup>13</sup>He said to me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' <sup>14</sup>Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.'  
(NRSV)

### **Second Reading**

*Acts 12.1-11*

<sup>1</sup>King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup>After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.'  
(NRSV)

### **Gospel**

*Matthew 16.13-19*

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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.'  
(NRSV)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.