

## BLESSED JOHN PAUL II, POPE

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Common of Pastors: For a Pope.

### Office of readings

Second reading

#### **From the Homily of Blessed John Paul II, Pope, for the Inauguration of his Pontificate**

(22 October 1978: AAS 70 [1978], 945-947)

***Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.***

Peter came to Rome! What else but obedience to the inspiration received from the Lord could have guided him and brought him to this city, the heart of the Empire? Perhaps the fisherman of Galilee did not want to come here. Perhaps he would have preferred to stay there, on the shores of Lake of Genesareth, with his boat and his nets. Yet guided by the Lord, obedient to his inspiration, he came here!

According to an ancient tradition, Peter tried to leave Rome during Nero's persecution. However, the Lord intervened and came to meet him. Peter spoke to him and asked, "Quo vadis, Domine?" — "Where are you going, Lord?" And the Lord answered him at once: "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." Peter went back to Rome and stayed here until his crucifixion.

Our time calls us, urges us, obliges us, to gaze on the Lord and to immerse ourselves in humble and devout meditation on the mystery of the supreme power of Christ himself.

He who was born of the Virgin Mary, the carpenter's Son (as he was thought to be), the Son of the living God (as confessed by Peter), came to make us all "a kingdom of priests".

The Second Vatican Council has reminded us of the mystery of this power and of the fact that Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet-Teacher and King continues in the Church. Everyone, the whole People of God, shares in this threefold mission. Perhaps in the past the tiara, that triple crown, was placed on the Pope's head in order to signify by that symbol the Lord's plan for his Church, namely that all the hierarchical order of Christ's Church, all "sacred power" exercised in the Church, is nothing other than service, service with a single purpose: to ensure that the whole People of God shares in this threefold mission of Christ and always remains under the power of the Lord; a power that has its source not in the powers of this world, but instead in the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection.

The absolute, and yet sweet and gentle, power of the Lord responds to the whole depths of the human person, to his loftiest aspirations of intellect, will and heart. It does not speak the language of force, but expresses itself in charity and truth.

The new Successor of Peter in the See of Rome today makes a fervent, humble and trusting prayer: Christ, make me become and remain the servant of your unique power, the servant of your sweet power, the servant of your power that knows no dusk. Make me a servant: indeed, the servant of your servants.

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power. Help the Pope and all those who wish to serve Christ and with Christ's power to serve the human person and the whole of mankind.

Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization and development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows "that which is in man". He alone knows it.

So often today, man does not know that which is in him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you, therefore, we beg you with humility and with trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of life eternal.

### Responsory

℟. Do not be afraid. The Redeemer of mankind has revealed the power of the Cross and has given his life for us. \* Open, open wide the doors for Christ.

℣. In the Church we are called to partake of his power. \* Open, open wide the doors for Christ.

### Oration

O God, who are rich in mercy and who willed that the blessed John Paul the Second should preside as Pope over your universal Church, grant, we pray, that instructed by his teaching, we may open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ, the sole Redeemer of mankind. Who lives and reigns.

## BEATI IOANNIS PAULI II, PAPAЕ

*Carolus Iosephus Wojtyła anno 1920 in civitate Wadowice in Polonia natus est. Presbyteratu auctus, studiis theologiae in Urbe completis, in patriam reditus variis pastoralibus academicisque muneribus junctus est. Iam Episcopus auxiliaris Cracoviensis, anno 1964 Archiepiscopus nominatus est et Sacrosancto Concilio Oecumenico Vaticano II interfuit. Summus Pontifex die 16 octobris 1978, Ioannis Pauli II sumpto nomine, electus, summa apostolica praesertim familiarum iuvenumque et aegrotantium sollicitudine emicuit, quae eum ad innumeras populi Dei ubique per orbem terrarum Visitationes duxit cuiusque fructus, inter multos alios, eximius Ecclesiae hereditate relictus ditissimum eius Magisterium et promulgationes Catechismi Catholicae Ecclesiae atque Codicum Iuris Canonici sive Ecclesiae Latinae sive Ecclesiarum Orientalium. In Urbe die 2 aprilis 2005, in vigilia dominicae II Paschatis seu de divina misericordia, pie in Domino quievit.*

De Communi pastorum: pro papa.

### Ad Officium lectionis

Lectio altera

#### Ex Homilia beati Ioannis Pauli Secundi, papae, in initio pontificatus.

(Die 22 octobris 1978: AAS 70 [1978], 945-947)

#### **Nolite timere! Aperite ianuas Christo!**

Petrus Romam venit! Quid enim eum hanc in Urbem, cor Imperii Romani, direxit et condixit, nisi inspirationi a Domino infusae oboedientia? Forsitan his Galilaëae piscator hucusque venire nollet. Forsitan illic manere mallet, apud ripas lacus Genesareth, sua cum navicula, suis cum retibus. Sed, a Domino ductus, eius obsequens inspirationi, huc venit!

Secundum antiquam traditionem, tempore persecutionis sub Nerone, Petrus Romam relinquere voluit. Sed Dominus intervenit: ei obviam exiit. Petrus ad eum se vertit, interrogans: «Quo vadis, Domine?». Et Dominus ei statim respondit: «Romam venio iterum crucifigi». Petrus Romam reversus est et hic usque ad suam mansit crucifixionem.

Aetas nostra nos invitat, nos impellit, nos obligat, ut Dominum inspiciamus et nos in humilem piamque immergamus meditationem mysterii supremæ potestatis ipsius Christi.

Ipse, Qui ex Maria Virgine natus est, Filius fabri lignarii – uti putabatur – Filius Dei vivi, sicut Petrus confessus est, venit, ut ex omnibus nobis «regnum sacerdotum» institueret.

Concilium Oecumenicum Vaticanum II nobis mysterium memoravit huius potestatis, in lucem proferens missionem Christi – Sacerdotis, Prophetæ et Magistri, Regis – quae in Ecclesia persëquitur. Omnes, totus Dei Pöpus istam triplicem participat missionem. Et forsitan praeterito tempore in caput Papae tiara imponebatur, haec nempe triplex corona, ut significaret, per eiusmodi signum, quod totus ordo hierarchicus Ecclesiae Christi, tota eius «sacra potestas» in ea exercitata, aliud non est nisi ministerium, ministerium quod velut unum tenet propositum: ut universus Dei Pöpus hanc triplicem participet Christi missionem atque semper sub Domini potestate maneat, quae suam originem non e potestatibus huius mundi trahit, sed a Patre caelesti et e mysterio Crucis Resurrectionisque.

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Potestas absoluta simulque dulcis et suavis Domini omni respondet hominis profunditati, eiusque altissimis intellectus, voluntatis cordisque adspiracionibus. Ea non roboris sermone loquitur, sed in caritate veritateque exprimitur.

Novus Petri Successor in Romana Sede hodie fervidam, humilem fiduciosamque elevat precem: «Christe! Fac, ut ego fieri et esse possim servus unice tue potestatis! Servus dulcis tue potestatis! Servus tue potestatis quae nescit occasum! Fac, ut ego servus esse possim! Immo, tuorum servus servorum».

Fratres et Sorores! Nolite timere Christum excipere eiusque potestatem suscipere! Auxiliamini Summum Pontificem et omnes qui Christo et, cum Christi potestate, homini totique humano generi servire cupiunt!

Nolite timere! Aperite, immo, expandite ianuas Christo! Eius salvificae potestati aperite Statuum fines, systemata oeconomica nec non politica, vastas culturae, civilis cultus et progressionis provincias. Nolite timere! Christus scit «quid in homine sit». Solus Ille novit!

Hodie saepe homo nescit quid intus, in profunditate animi sui suique cordis afferat. Saepe sensus eius vitae hac in terra est incertus. Dubio obruitur quod in desperationem mutatur. Sinite igitur – rogo vos, humiliter ac fidenter vos imploro – sinite Christum cum homine loqui. Solus Ille verba vitae habet, sic! vitae aeternae.

### **Responsorium**

R/. Nolite timere: Redemptor hominis crucis potestatem revelavit et pro nobis vitam dedit! \* Aperite, expandite ianuas Christo.

V. Vocamur in Ecclesia, ut eius participemus potestatem. \* Aperite.

### **Oratio**

Deus, dives in misericordia, qui beatum Ioannem Paulum, papam, universae Ecclesiae tuae praeesse voluisti, praesta, quaesumus, ut, eius institutis edocti, corda nostra salutiferae gratiae Christi, unius redemptoris hominis, fidenter aperiamus. Qui tecum.