

Formed in Prayer

*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us*

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gospel

Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, '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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be saying to you in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

In response to Peter's confession of faith in him as 'the Christ', Jesus provides no further elaboration on who he is but teaches the disciples what he is destined for. Who Jesus is, is inextricably bound up with what will happen to him, his destiny. As a Christ-ian, as a follower of Christ, how has your answer to the question, 'But you, who do you say I am?' shaped your life? How will your answer shape your destiny? We know our answer to the question is authentic if it has led to us renouncing ourselves and losing our life. And isn't that what happened when we fell in love with our husband or wife or partner, when we became parents or teachers or leaders? We are called to renounce ourselves and lose our lives in these relationships every day. The news worth sharing is that sacrificial love, love on a cross, never diminishes us, our sense of self or joy in living, but only ever expands our sense of self, and deepens our sense of personal meaning and fulfilment. This is Good News, a God-like way of thinking. Let's go and share it with those we lead, teach and serve! (*Greg Wilson, CSYMA Manager*)

Lord Jesus

You are the Christ
May I come to see you more clearly;
Grow to love you more dearly;
Learn to follow you more nearly;
Day by day
Amen.