MIDDAY PRAYER
Wednesday of the 25th Week in Ordinary Time

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
Washington, DC
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POPE FRANCIS
with the
Catholic Bishops of the United States

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Washington, DC
**PRELUDE**

_Duo Seraphim_  
Jacobus Gallus (Handl)  
(1550–1591)

_Two Seraphim proclaimed to each other,_
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord, the God of power and might."
Heaven and earth are full of his glory.

_Os Justi_  
Anton Bruckner  
(1824–1896)

_The mouths of the just speak of wisdom; their tongues tell what is just. God's law is in their hearts; their steps will be saved from stumbling. Alleluia._

_Tout puissant_  
Francis Poulenc  
(1899–1963)

_(from 4 petites prières de St. François d'Assise)_

_Altimate, most holy, most high and sovereign God; To you, who alone are universal and all good, we offer praise, glory, gratitude, honor, blessing; May we forever bring to you everything that is good. Amen._

_Seigneur, Je Vous en Prie_  
Francis Poulenc  
(1899–1963)

_(from 4 petites prières de St. François d'Assise)_

_Lord, I pray, that the burning and gentle power of your love absorbs my soul And removes it from all that is lower than heaven, So that I may die of love for your love Since you have chosen to die for love of my love._

_Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 156_  
Dieterich Buxtehude  
(c. 1637–1707)

_Ave Maria_  
Gustav Holst  
(1874–1934)

_PSalm 92_  
Robert LeBlanc  
(b. 1948)

_It is good to give thanks to the Lord. It is good to praise your name, O Lord Most high._

_Hymne à la Vierge_  
Pierre Villette  
(1926–1998)

_O beautiful Virgin Mary, in God your soul discovers perfect love. It cloaks you with the mantle of Grace like a betrothed adorned with her jewels. Alleluia, alleluia. I will sing your praise, Lord, for you have looked after me, For you have covered me with the veil of innocence, for you have made me before the day, For you have made me go before the gushing of fountains. You were born before the hills, O wisdom of God, the way to salvation. Happy is he who walks in your footsteps, who prepares his heart to listen to your advice. You were present before the stars, Mother of the Creator, in the very depths of heaven. When God was creating the world, working with Him you shared His heart._

_O Bone Jesu_  
Fernando Moruja  
(1960–2004)

_O blessed Jesus, have mercy on us. For you have created us and redeemed us by your most precious blood._

_Adagio_  
Daniel Gawthrop  
_(from Sinfonia Festiva)_  
(b. 1949)

_Notre Père_  
Maurice Durufle  
(1902–1986)
THE ORDER OF CELEBRATION

ARRIVAL
The Holy Father is greeted at the main entrance to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle by the rector. He proceeds down the main aisle to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a brief time of private prayer. He then proceeds through the sanctuary to the sacristy to vest for Midday Prayer.

PROCESSION
The Holy Father proceeds with the other ministers to his chair, as the choir sings.

Tu Es Petrus
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

INTRODUCTORY VERSE
Making the Sign of the Cross, the Holy Father says the Introductory Verse.

The Holy Father:
Deus, in adiutórium meum inténde.
R/. Dómine, ad adivávánum me festíná.

Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto.

HYMN
O Holy Spirit by Whose Breath

Text: Veni Creator Spiritus; attr. to Rabanus Maurus (776-865); trans. by John W. Grant (1919-2006)
Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623; arr. Julian Wachner (b. 1969)

Following the hymn, all are seated. The choir leads the chanting of the Psalmody with their proper antiphons.
Antiphon I
Cantor, then assembly

Psalm 119:9-16
II (Beth)

Schola: How shall the young remain sinless?
By obeying your word.
I have sought you with all my heart:
let me not stray from your commands.

All: I treasure your promise in my heart
lest I sin against you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.

Schola: With my tongue I have recounted the decrees of your lips.
I rejoiced to do your will
as though all riches were mine.

All: I will ponder all your precepts
and consider your paths.
I take delight in your statues;
I will not forget your word.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon
Schola, then all repeat

A moment of silent prayer follows.
Antiphon II

Cantor, then assembly, and following each verse.

Psalm 17

I

Lord, hear a cause that is just,
pay heed to my cry.
Turn your ear to my prayer:
no deceit is on my lips.

From you may my judgment come forth.
Your eyes discern the truth. (Antiphon)

You search my heart, you visit me by night.
You test me and you find in me no wrong.
My words are not sinful as are men's words.

I kept from violence because of your word,
I kept my feet in your paths;
there was no faltering in my steps. (Antiphon)

I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.
Turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Display your great love, you whose right hand saves
your friends from those who rebel against them.

Guard me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me in the shadow of your wings
from the violent attack of the wicked. (Antiphon)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen. (Antiphon)

A moment of silent prayer follows.

Antiphon III

Rise up, O Lord, and rescue me. (Choir only)

Psalm 17

II

Cantor: My foes encircle me with deadly intent.*
Their hearts tight shut, their mouths speak proudly.

All: They advance against me,*
and now they surround me.

Cantor: Their eyes are watching to strike me to the ground*
as though they were lions ready to claw /
or like some young lion crouched in hiding.

All: Lord, arise, confront them, strike them down!*
Let your sword rescue my soul from the wicked;

Cantor: let your hand, O Lord, rescue me from men,*
from men whose reward is in this present life.

All: You give them their fill of your treasures:* they rejoice in abundance of offspring /
and leave their wealth to their children.

Cantor: As for me, in my justice I shall see your face*
and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,*
and to the Holy Spirit;

All: as it was in the beginning, is now,*
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Rise up, O Lord, and rescue me. (Choir only)

A moment of silent prayer follows.
READING

1 Peter 1:15-16

Become holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, after the likeness of the holy One who called you; remember, Scripture says, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

HOMILY

RESPONSE

May your priests be robed with holiness.

R/. Let your people dance for joy.

PRAYER

The Holy Father:

Oremus.

Omnípotens et miséricors Deus, qui nos die média respiráre concédis, quos cépimus propítius intuére labóres, et, sanans quæ delíquimus, fac eos ad finem tibi plácitum perveníre.

Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

R/. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

The liturgy concludes with the Pontifical Blessing.

The Holy Father:

Dóminus vobíscum.

R/. Et cum spíritu tuo.

Sit nomen Dómini benedíctum.

R/. Ex hoc nunc et usque in sǽculum.

Adiutórium nostrum in nómine Dómini.

R/. Qui fecit cælum et terram.

Benedícat vos omnípotens Deus, Pater, ✠ et Fílius, ✠ et Spíritus ✠ Sanctus.

R/. Amen.

REMARKS


The Holy Father then greets a selected group of bishops and officials from the USCCB at the sanctuary gates, and then returns to the sacristy.
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