



Who do men say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ"

First Reading: (*Isa 50:5-9a*) The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Ps 114:1-6, 8-9

R./ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading: (*Jas 2:14-18*) What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed

for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

Gospel: (*Mk 8:27-35*) Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind



me, Satan! For you are not on the side of let him deny himself and take up his cross
God, but of men.” And he called to him the and follow me. For whoever would save his
multitude with his disciples, and said to life will lose it; and whoever loses his life
them, “If any man would come after me, for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.

REFLECTION

According to Augustinian scheme of things, “God’s ways are ultimately inscrutable to man.” But God in his goodness at certain point of time reveals to humans the eternal truths. In today’s gospel we find one of such revelation voiced by Peter. Peter professes the Messiahship of Jesus. But as soon as Jesus reveals to him the real nature of His Messiahship, that of a suffering servant, peter demonstrates the typical human tendency of playing safe. Jesus’ stern remonstrance of Peter is a symbolic exhortation to each of us to avoid the temptation to silence the inner voice of God, even if it comes from someone so close to us. The words of Jesus addressed to peter, “get behind me satan,” should motivate us **to give precedence to divine voice in our day today lives, though those earthly voices may appear to be more rational and pleasant.** Let us take the side of the Lord though it may appear incredible and incomprehensible.