**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17 – VI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."**

**The Father – according to what the Gospel according to Matthew refers – has revealed to Simon that Jesus is his Christ, his Messiah. He has not revealed the truth that surrounds the life of the Messiah, since this truth has already been revealed by the prophets in every smallest detail. Reading the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms, all things, but truly all things about the Messiah of God have been revealed. What is one of the truth dealing with the Messiah of God? His sufferance. He is the Servant of the Lord. He is the Pierced. He is the Handed over by God to the great sufferance. But He is also the One who will see the light after his intimate torment. Here are the Words of the Psalm: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.**

**My mouth[d] is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce[e] my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you[f] I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him— may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!” (Psal 22, 1-32) Simon Peter does not think according to God since he does not think according to the prophetic Scriptures. Whoever, today, tomorrow, always, does not think and does not speak about Christ Jesus according to the prophetic Scripture, this one does not think according to God, instead he thinks according to men. But thinking and speaking about Christ according to men is making him a messiah for the things of earth and no longer for the true salvation and the true redemption of humanity. One leaves man in his spiritual and also earthly misery. No messiah according to men might ever give the true life.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 8,27-33**

**Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Messiah." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."**

**We can well affirm that today almost all the Christian are thinking and speaking about Christ Jesus in the complete exclusion of the prophetic Scriptures. If we thought and spoke about Him according to the prophetic Scriptures, we would certainly never say what we say every day. Speaking about Jesus the Lord according to men, we have reduced Him to a pure and simple man, with a word similar to that of every other man, with an impact in history equal to that of every other man. But not only about Christ, even about his Father are we speaking and thinking according to men. Even about the Church and of its mission are we speaking according to men. This happens since we have put the prophetic Scriptures under our feet. Either we restore the prophetic Scripture on the lampstand of every heart, or we are consumed by our thoughts. May the Mother of God come to our rescue soon.**