**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord God,  
“Behold, I am the one who has laid

as a foundation in Zion,  
    a stone, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:  
    ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’  
And I will make justice the line,  
    and righteousness the plumb line;  
and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,  
    and waters will overwhelm the shelter.”

**The Word of the Lord**

R/ (2) **I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength,  
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

R/**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

My God, my rock of refuge,  
my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!  
Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,  
and I am safe from my enemies.

R/**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock!  
Extolled be God my savior.  
You who gave great victories to your king  
and showed kindness to your anointed.

R/**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord

Intercessions

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Rock and Refuge, help us to always depend on you to be our stronghold and our shelter in times of trial and triumph…we pray to the Lord… R.  
  
Christ, our Light, in you every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that we may forge and foster a community that is the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit…we pray to the Lord… R.  
  
In thanksgiving for this paver that we bless, may it be an enduring sign of faithfulness, family, and fellowship for all who in any way don the mantle of Paulist…we pray to the Lord… R.

Gracious Lord, you taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock; grant that the members of this family of faith may hold fast to your teachings and, free from all discord, and serve you with their whole heart…we pray to the Lord… R.

For the work of the Paulist fathers and all who share and live the Paulist mission and ministry. May they be continually blessed to bring the Word of God to life in the lives of all we encounter…we pray to the Lord… R.

For our sisters and brothers who are disconnected, distressed, displaced, or dismissed…may the faith and light we foster join with the faith and light you generously shine to provide their needs and give them strength…we pray to the Lord… R.

Blessing

Lord,   
be close to your servants   
as we today ask for your blessing upon this paver.

Be our rock of perseverant faith as we act as a rock of support for others.   
Be our rock of refuge as we guard and encourage one another.

Be our rock of our salvation as we remain girded in holiness.

And when our work is done, we pray that you receive us all into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where our hope will be fulfilled and where you live for ever and ever. R. Amen.