

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me.
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all
the day long.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the
master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall
close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory for his father's
house.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 137:1-3.6.8

Response:

Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the
work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rm 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his
wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible
to penetrate his motives or understand his
methods! Who could ever know the mind of
the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all
is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling
the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they
are reconciled. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea
Philippi he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And
they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist,
some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of
the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you
say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You
are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living
God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you
are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and
blood that revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter
and on this rock I will build my Church. And the
gates of the underworld can never hold out
against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom
of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall
be considered bound in heaven; whatever you
loose on earth shall be considered loosed
in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict
orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by
adoption
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,
bestow graciously on us, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your
work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love'
your neighbour; act as if you did and you will
presently come to love them.

C S Lewis

Sunday Message

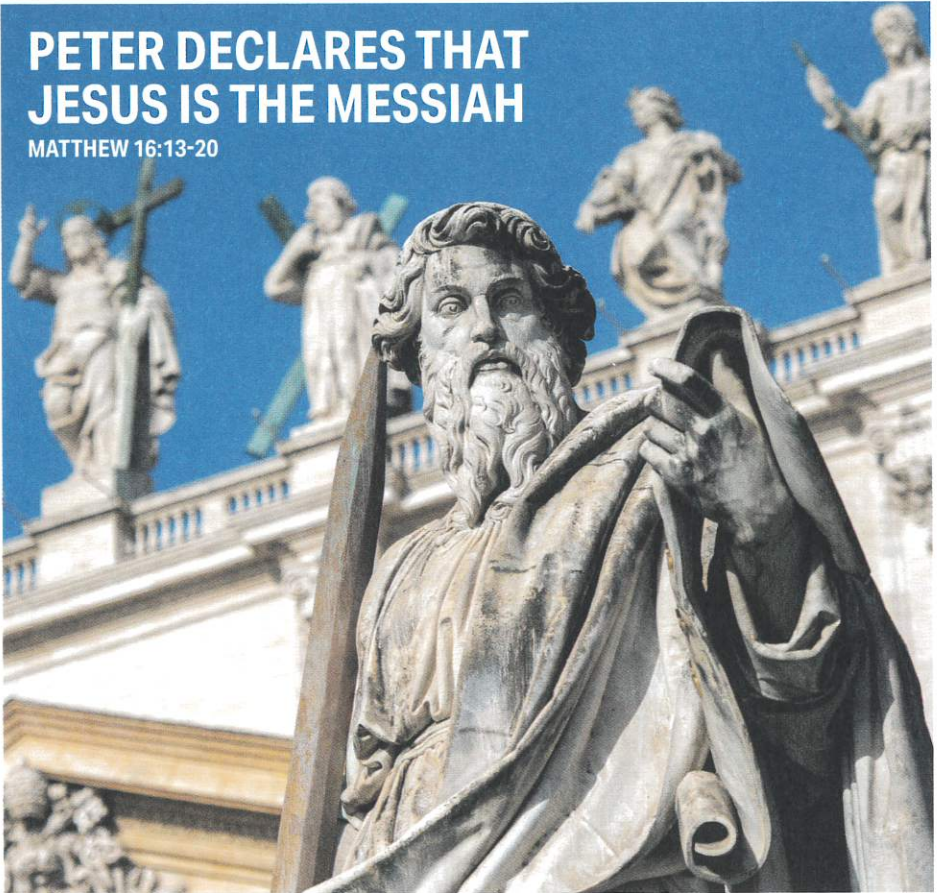
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 23 August 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

PETER DECLARES THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

MATTHEW 16:13-20



Jesus asks his disciples a vital question: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Their responses vary, reflecting popular opinions about him. Jesus then turns the question directly to his disciples: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answers with clarity and faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus affirms Peter's insight as a revelation from God the Father, highlighting that recognition of Christ's true identity comes through divine guidance, not human reasoning alone. He then gives Peter a unique role: to be the rock upon which the Church will be built, and the authority to bind and loose on earth, reflecting heavenly authority. This Gospel points to the foundation of the Church in faith in Christ and the centrality of Peter's leadership as a sign of God's plan for guiding his people.

Matthew also underscores the importance of personal faith and discernment. The confession is not just a historical moment but a model for all believers: recognizing Jesus as the Messiah and responding with commitment is the cornerstone of Christian life. It invites reflection on our own understanding of Christ and our willingness to align our lives with him. ■

LEARN

Christ entrusted Peter and his successors with the care of his Church, showing that personal faith is inseparable from our responsibility to participate in the life and mission of the Church.



REFLECT

The response of Peter today reminds us that faith is personal. It is about recognizing Jesus in our own lives, not just repeating what others say.

Peter's confession also shows courage. He speaks honestly, even when others are unsure. In our lives, we are called to the same courage: to acknowledge Christ in our words, choices, and actions, even when it is difficult or unpopular. Jesus' promise to build his Church on Peter's faith reminds us that our faith is not private. It shapes the community of believers and encourages others to trust in God.

Practically, the Gospel invites us to take small steps each day to live our faith. It could be offering a kind word, helping someone in need, or simply sharing your belief in Christ when the opportunity arises. Each act of faith — however ordinary — strengthens the Church and deepens our own relationship with Jesus. Faith is living, courageous, and communal, and it begins with honestly answering Jesus' question in our hearts. ■

SAY

"Lord, increase my faith, and help me to know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly."

DO

This week, ask yourself honestly: 'Who is Jesus for me?' and take one small step to live that answer — a kind word, a helpful action, or a moment of prayer.

