



23 AUGUST 2026 ❖ 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ❖ YEAR A



“YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD”

Today is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel, Jesus asks: “Who do you say that I am?” In Caesarea Philippi, where many worshiped false gods, Peter boldly proclaims that Jesus is “the Son of the living God,” declaring Him as the true Lord. This challenges us to make our own profession of faith. Who is Jesus for us? To believe in Him means to follow Him, even on the path of the Cross. May we have the courage to confess our faith and the fidelity to stand by Jesus in every moment.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(To be recited only when no entrance hymn is sung.)

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.

(Cf. Ps 86 (85): 1-3)

GREETING

P –Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ who
established the Church on the rock of Peter’s
faith. May his grace and peace be with you all!
All–And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P –Gathered together to offer the Eucharistic
Sacrifice and receive the Bread of Life, let us

once again realize our unworthiness and the
need to be purified from all our sins. (Pause)

P –You are the Christ, the Son of the Living
God. Lord, have mercy.

All–Lord, have mercy.

P –You founded your Church to be for all ages
the sacrament of salvation. Christ, have mercy.

All–Christ, have mercy.

P –You entrusted to Peter the keys of the
Kingdom of heaven. Lord, have mercy.

All–Lord, have mercy.

P –May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting
life.

All–Amen.

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GLORIA

All – 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 (OPENING PRAYER)

P – 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.
All–Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading

Is 22:19-23

R – A reading from the Book of the Prophet
Isaiah

**Thus says the Lord to Shebna, master of the
palace:**

**“I will thrust you from your office
and pull you down from your station.**

**On that day I will summon my servant
Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah;**

**I will clothe him with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and give over to him your authority.**

**He shall be a father to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem,
and to the house of Judah.
I will place the key of the House of David on
Eliakim’s shoulder.
When he opens, no one shall shut,
when he shuts, no one shall open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family.”**

The word of the Lord.
All –Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

R – Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

R. M. Velez



- * I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all
my heart,
for you have heard the words of my
mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your
praise;
I will worship at your holy temple. **R.**
- * I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your
truth:
when I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me. **R.**

- * The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands. **R.**

2nd Reading

Rom 11:33-36

R – A reading from the Letter of Paul to the
Romans

**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and
knowledge of God!**

**How inscrutable are his judgments and how
unsearchable his ways!**

*For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?
For from him and through him and for him
are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.*

The word of the Lord.
All –Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 16:18

All– Alleluia, alleluia.
You are Peter and upon this rock I will
build my Church,
and the gates of the netherworld shall not
prevail against it.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20

P –The Lord be with you.
All –**And with your spirit.**
P –A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew
All–Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea
Philippi
and he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
They replied, “Some say John the Baptist,
others Elijah,
still others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.”
He said to them, “But who do you say that I
am?”
Simon Peter said in reply,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the
living God.”
Jesus said to him in reply,
“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to
you, but my heavenly Father.
And so I say to you, you are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my
church,
and the gates of the netherworld shall
not prevail against it.
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of
heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound
in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall
be loosed in heaven.”

Then he strictly ordered his disciples
to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

HOMILY

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All – 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, *(bow)*
** 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 OF THE FAITHFUL

P –Let us approach the Father who, through the Holy Spirit, reveals Jesus His only begotten Son. With faith, we pray: Heavenly Father, hear us.

All–Heavenly Father, hear us.

C –For the Pope, bishops, priests, and all the faithful, that like St. Peter, they may boldly proclaim Jesus as the Lord and Redeemer and remain steadfast in faith. Let us pray. **R.**

C –For all Christians: that we may go beyond merely knowing Jesus and grow into a deep and personal encounter with Him that transforms our lives. Let us pray. **R.**

C –For those who doubt or seek the truth: that they may remain hopeful and steadfast in their search for meaning in life, never losing heart along the way. Let us pray. **R.**

C –For the souls in purgatory: that, purified of their sins, the light of heaven may shine on them. Let us pray. **R.**

P –Loving Father, do not hide Your face from us who seek You. Strengthen our faith, that we may recognize You in our daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All –May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P –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.
All–Amen.

PREFACE VII

P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit.

P –Lift up your hearts.

All–We lift them up to the Lord.

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All– It is right and just.

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you so loved the world
that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer,
to live like us in all things but sin,
so that you might love in us what you loved in
your Son,
by whose obedience we have been restored to
those gifts of yours
that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.
And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,
we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation
we acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P –The mystery of faith.

**All–Save us, Savior of the world, for by your
Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

COMMUNION RITE

All–Our Father . . .

P– Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All –For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

SIGN OF PEACE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD



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