



TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Christian life will call on us at times to make a decision for or against Jesus, as for the apostles in today's gospel. We know with him we have the message of the deepest human love we are capable of.

23rd August 2026



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.

GREETING

In the name of the FatherAmen.
The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and
blood:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us. **Amen.**

THE 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.**



OPENING PRAYER

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, you Son, who

lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Isaiah 22: 19 - 23

A reading from the prophet of 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.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 137)

**R. 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 Romans 11: 33-36

A reading from St. Paul's letter 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! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.

And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 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.

NICENE CREED

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 for following 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.

✠ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

Pray, brothers and sisters,

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

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.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.....

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God.....

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

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.