

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
23rd August 2026

Sentence: Matthew 16.15-16

Jesus said to them, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’

Collect:

O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 51.1-6

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

¹ Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

¹ I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:
even before the gods will I sing your praises.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name:
because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness,
for you have made your name and your word
supreme over all things.

³ At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer:
and put new strength within my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord:
for they have heard the words of your mouth;

⁵ And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:
that the glory of the Lord is great.

⁶ For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly:
and he comprehends the proud from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of danger,
yet will you preserve my life:
you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my
enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

⁸ The Lord will complete his purpose for me:
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
do not forsake the work of your own hands.

Second Reading: Romans 12.1-8

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16.18

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

You are Peter, the rock on which I build my Church;
The gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 16.13-20

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.