

Sunday, August 23, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Prayer for the Morning

Come, let us worship the Lord, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer.. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia

Hymn **Meter: CM**

O where are kings and empires now
Of old that went and came
But, Lord, thy Church is praying yet,
Two thousand years the same.
We mark her goodly battlements,
And her foundations strong:
We hear within the solemn voice
Of her unending song.
For not like kingdoms of the world,
Thy holy Church, O God:
Though earthquake shocks are threat'ning her,
And tempests are abroad;
Unshaken as eternal hills,
Immovable she stands,
A mountain that shall fill the earth,
A house not made by hands.

Psalm **182-7, 32-34, 36, 47-48**

I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the nether world shall not prevail against it. (Mt 16:18)

*The Church stands firm upon the rock of Peter.
Peter's faith stands firm upon the rock of God's Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my savior.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.
The waves of death rose about me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the snares of the grave entangled me;
the traps of death confronted me.
In my anguish I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came to his ears.

For who is God but the Lord?

Who is a rock but our God?

The God who girds me with strength
and makes the path safe before me.
My feet you made swift as the deer's;
you have made me stand firm on the heights.

You gave me your saving shield;
you upheld me, trained me with care.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me,
the God who gives me redress
and subdues people under me.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God **Isaiah 28:16**

See, I am laying a stone in Zion,/ a stone that has been tested,/ A precious cornerstone as a sure foundation;/ he who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken.

Come to the living stone, precious in God's eyes.

(cf. 1 Pt 2:4)

Canticle of Zechariah

Peter, I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers. (cf. Lk 22:32)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

As members of Saint Peter's flock, we pray:

R/ In your kindness, be mindful of your people.

On the night before you were betrayed, you prayed that Peter's faith would not fail; strengthen today the faith of your people. **R/**

After your Resurrection, you showed yourself to Peter; enlighten our hearts so that we may own you as the Living One. **R/**

In your mercy, you forgave Peter his betrayal; forgive us our sins also. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Lord Jesus Christ, you have built your Church upon the rock of Saint Peter's faith. Grant that nothing may cause our faith to waver or to fail, for you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Reading 1

Isaiah 22:19-23

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 Hilkiah;/ 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."

Reading 2

Romans 11:33-36

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.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

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 to 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.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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