

READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR AUGUST 23, 2020
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: *Isaiah 22:19-23*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8*

Second Reading: *Romans 11:33-36*

Gospel: *Matthew 16:13-20*

REFLECTION:

In today's Gospel passage Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" He knew who he had been with these people; he had been healing them, forgiving them, and preaching to them. Jesus wanted to know if the people could recognize in his actions that he was truly the Son of God.

We find Simon Peter answering the question "who do you say that I am," identifying Jesus as the Son of the living God. Evidently Peter recognized something deep within Jesus that was divine, someone coming from God. Jesus applauds Peter for his response and says to him: "You are rock."

Jesus is saying something similar to us. After listening to what Jesus is saying, we move on to face each day trying to remember who it is Jesus says we are and who he meant us to be.

PRAYER:

Faithful God, you do everything you have promised. Your love is constant. How deep your wisdom and knowledge! Complete the work you have begun. Help us to proclaim your wonder and goodness even in the midst of challenges. We trust in your care now and forever.

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