

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year -A

23 August 2026

First Reading **Isaiah 22:15, 19-23**

‘I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.’

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, ‘Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: “I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father’s house.”’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc. R8bc

*O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

*O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

*O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

The LORD is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

*O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.*

Second Reading **Romans 11:33-36**

‘From him and through him and to him are all things.’

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 16:18*

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build
my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail
against it.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

*'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.'*

At that time: When Jesus came into the
district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his
disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of
Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the
Baptist, others say Elijah, and others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to
them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon
Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of
the living God.' And Jesus answered him,
'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh
and blood has not revealed this to you, but
my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you,
you are Peter, and on this rock I will build
my Church, and the gates of hell shall not
prevail against it. I will give you the keys of
the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you
bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed
in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the
disciples to tell no one that he was the
Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father,
in your mercy you give to your
people every good gift.
We turn to you in faith,
asking that you bless our
Archdiocese with vocations
to the priesthood and religious life.
Inspire us with your Holy Spirit
to help young men and women
hear your call and respond
with joyful hearts.
Bless our young people with
the gift of courage to respond
to your call.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.