

TODAY'S CATHOLIC MASS SHEET

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

23rd August 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

**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.**

COLLECT

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, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 138(137):1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc. R.8bc

**R. 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.

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.

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.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 11:33-36

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.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Matthew 16:18
**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

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,
R. bestow graciously on us, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 103: 13-15

**The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.**

R.

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.
Amen.



Consent to original: Paul Moynihan. Imprinter: Christopher Dawson, Chancelor, Salford. Scripture texts from the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition published by Asian Trading Corporation © 2017 by Crossway. All rights reserved. Prayers and Canticles from Abbey Prayers and Canticles © 2018, 2010 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved. Administered in England and Wales by Colloquium (CATEW) on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The English translation of the Lectionary for Mass, including Readings, Psalm Responses and Acclamations before the Gospel © 2023 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Extracts from the Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Catholic Printing Company of Farnworth Limited © 2026

The Catholic Printing Company of Farnworth*

Tel: 0161 873 7457

www.catholicprint.co.uk

©2026