

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

1st. READING (Is 22, 19-23)

Thus says the Lord of host to Shebna, the master of the palace. You will be deposed, strongman. I will hurl you down from where you are. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe, I will strengthen him with your girdle, I will give him your authority, and he will be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. Upon his shoulder I will place the key of the House of David: what he opens, no one shall shut; what he shuts, no one shall open. I will fasten him like a peg in a sure spot, and he will be a seat of honour in the house of his father.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 138)

I thank you, O Lord, with all my heart,
for you have heard the word of my lips.
I sing your praise in the presence of the gods.
I bow down towards your holy temple

I give thanks to your name,
for your love and faithfulness,
for your word which exceeds everything.
You answered me when I called;
you restored my soul and made me strong.

From above, the Lord watches
over the lowly; from afar,
he marks down the haughty.
How the Lord cares for me!
Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever.
Forsake not the work of your hands.

2nd. READING (Rom 11,33-36)

How deep are the riches, the wisdom and knowledge of God! His decisions cannot be explained, nor his ways understood! Who has ever known God's thoughts? Who has ever been his adviser? Who has given him something first, so that God had to repay him? For everything comes from him, has been made by him and has to return to him. To him be the glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL (Mt 16, 13-20)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.