

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN: 'Take My Life and Let it Be' (605)

Reflection

The question that Jesus asked of his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' is an important question for each of us. Faith is a close personal relationship with Jesus. When Jesus asked the question, 'Who do people say I am?', the disciples had a variety of ready answers, but when he has asked, 'Who do you say I am?', they had to look deep within their hearts to find the answer. It was right that one alone answered, for even though we are immersed in the community of the Church, our response in faith is personal and intimate, heart speaking to heart. The Father gave to Peter recognition of who Jesus was so that he might respond in love.

Each of us has to hear Jesus ask this question. At first, it can be a difficult one to face as it is so personal and intimate. It is easier to think of 'faith' in terms of ritual or doctrine, but essentially it is a relationship and the role of ritual and doctrine is to help that relationship grow. We may struggle to find the words or images with which to express our personal recognition of who Jesus is to us, but it bears rich insight.

The conversation is not only one way. As we answer Jesus' question, we will find him responding to us with who he says we are. It is in relationship with him that we come to our truest and best selves. Peter well knew he was no "rock" but with the love of Jesus he was able to deal beyond his personal liabilities and witness to God's love beyond his wildest dreams. We each have our own weakness and failure but that is no impediment to the love of Jesus shining within our lives.

Sister Kym Harris OSB

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12th Sunday after Trinity

23rd August 2026

GATHERING HYMN:

'All My Hope on God is Founded' (19)

COLLECT:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51: 1—6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.



Listen to me, my people,
 and give heed to me, my nation;
 for a teaching will go out from me,
 and my justice for a light to the peoples.
 I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
 my salvation has gone out
 and my arms will rule the peoples;
 the coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they hope.
 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and those who live on it will die like gnats;
 but my salvation will be for ever,
 and my deliverance will never be ended.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Romans 12: 1–8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in

exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN: 'There is a Redeemer' (644)

We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

Matthew 16: 13–20

Now 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, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 'Be Still My Soul' (61)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'All for Jesus' (12)

'Jesus Shall Take the Highest Honour' (355)

'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You' (81)

