



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 23, 2020  
12th Sunday after Pentecost

*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

## Prayer of the Day

---

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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 forever,  
and my deliverance will never be  
ended.

## Psalm

## Psalm 138; refrain, Ps. 138:8



O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever.

- I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>1</sup> my whole heart;  
 before the gods I will <sup>1</sup> sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
 because of your steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and faithfulness;  
 for you have glorified your name and your word a- <sup>1</sup>bove all things.
- <sup>3</sup> When I called, you <sup>1</sup> answered me;  
 you increased my <sup>1</sup> strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup> All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
 when they have heard the words <sup>1</sup> of your mouth. **R**
- <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 that great is the glory <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>1</sup> for the lowly,  
 perceiving the haughty <sup>1</sup> from afar.
- <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>1</sup> keep me safe;  
 you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
 your right <sup>1</sup> hand shall save me.
- <sup>8</sup> You will make good your pur- <sup>1</sup>pose for me;  
 O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;  
 do not abandon the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands. **R**

## Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

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. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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 judgment, each according to the measure

of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

## Prayers of Intercession

---

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call us into this community (*name*), in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Preparing for Next Week

---

**Monday** (Bartholomew, Apostle) John 1:43-51. **Tuesday** Romans 11:33-36. **Wednesday** Isaiah 28:14-22. **Thursday** Psalm 26:1-8. **Friday** (commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430; Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400) 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. **Saturday** Jeremiah 15:10-14. **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

CELEBRATE August 23, 2020 (Lectionary 21)

Volume 51, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2008, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Thomas Keesecker. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org).  
CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

14 of 14

Tracks 1 and 2