

[116] **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A**

FIRST READING

From Christ, through him, and in him are all things.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 11:33-36

Brothers and sisters:

Who can measure the wealth and wisdom and knowledge of God?
Who can understand his decisions or explain what he does?

“Has anyone ever known the thoughts of the Lord
or given him advice?
Has anyone loaned something to the Lord
that must be repaid?”

Everything comes from the Lord.
All things were made because of him and will return to him.
Praise the Lord forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

138:1-2a, 2bc and 3, 6 and 8cde

R. (8b) Lord, your love is eternal.

With all my heart
I praise you, Lord.
In the presence of angels
I sing your praises.
I worship at your holy temple.

R. Lord, your love is eternal.

I praise you for your love
and your faithfulness.
When I asked for your help,
you answered my prayer
and gave me courage.

R. Lord, your love is eternal.

Though you are above us all,
you care for humble people,
and you keep a close watch
on everyone who is proud.
Your love never fails.
You have made us what we are.
Don't give up on us now!

R. Lord, your love is eternal.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 16:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

You are Peter; to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked them, "What do people say about the Son of Man?"

The disciples answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptist
or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet."

Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter spoke up,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

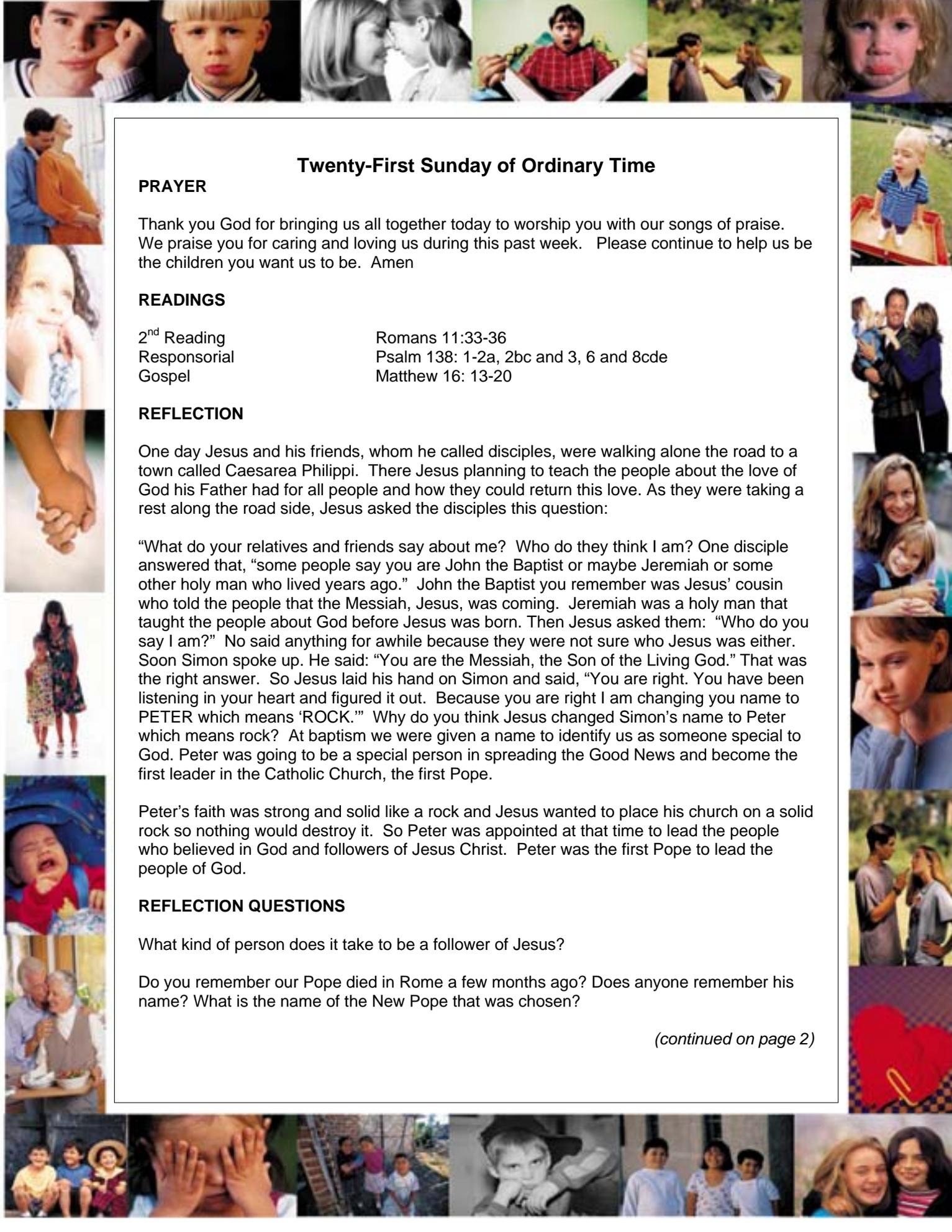
Jesus told him:

"Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed!
You didn't discover this on your own.
It was shown to you by my Father in heaven.
So I will call you Peter, which means 'a rock.'
On this rock I will build my Church,
and death itself will not have any power over it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven,
and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth.
But he will not allow anything that you don't allow."

Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.



Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

PRAYER

Thank you God for bringing us all together today to worship you with our songs of praise. We praise you for caring and loving us during this past week. Please continue to help us be the children you want us to be. Amen

READINGS

2nd Reading
Responsorial
Gospel

Romans 11:33-36
Psalm 138: 1-2a, 2bc and 3, 6 and 8cde
Matthew 16: 13-20

REFLECTION

One day Jesus and his friends, whom he called disciples, were walking along the road to a town called Caesarea Philippi. There Jesus planning to teach the people about the love of God his Father had for all people and how they could return this love. As they were taking a rest along the road side, Jesus asked the disciples this question:

“What do your relatives and friends say about me? Who do they think I am? One disciple answered that, “some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Jeremiah or some other holy man who lived years ago.” John the Baptist you remember was Jesus’ cousin who told the people that the Messiah, Jesus, was coming. Jeremiah was a holy man that taught the people about God before Jesus was born. Then Jesus asked them: “Who do you say I am?” No said anything for awhile because they were not sure who Jesus was either. Soon Simon spoke up. He said: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” That was the right answer. So Jesus laid his hand on Simon and said, “You are right. You have been listening in your heart and figured it out. Because you are right I am changing you name to PETER which means ‘ROCK.’” Why do you think Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter which means rock? At baptism we were given a name to identify us as someone special to God. Peter was going to be a special person in spreading the Good News and become the first leader in the Catholic Church, the first Pope.

Peter’s faith was strong and solid like a rock and Jesus wanted to place his church on a solid rock so nothing would destroy it. So Peter was appointed at that time to lead the people who believed in God and followers of Jesus Christ. Peter was the first Pope to lead the people of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What kind of person does it take to be a follower of Jesus?

Do you remember our Pope died in Rome a few months ago? Does anyone remember his name? What is the name of the New Pope that was chosen?

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We have a leader in this parish also chosen to lead this parish community. Can someone give me that name?

SUPPLIES: small rocks and markers

Give a small rock to each child. If the children can print have them print on the rock either the word FAITH or LOVE. Suggest that they carry the rock around in his/her pocket or put it on the dresser in his/her bedroom and to remember that it takes a strong person that loves God to be a good Christian.