

CALL TO PRAYER

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the **Son of Man** is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the **prophets**." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not **revealed** this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you **loose** on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

FAITH SHARING

Questions of the Week

Choose one

1. Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was, and he received several different responses. Consider whether any of those responses were "wrong," and how each of you would respond if Jesus were to ask **you** who he is. In other words, who is Jesus to **you**? Discuss how your responses differ, and why, and what those differences mean in terms of your relationships with Jesus.
2. In today's Gospel, Peter states that Christ is the son of the "living" God. In what ways can we allow God to be alive – to live – in our daily lives?
3. Imagine you are Peter and Jesus has given you "the keys to the kingdom of heaven." What might those keys open (or lock) in today's world?
4. Was Jesus afraid of being recognized by strangers while he was protected by his many friends, and why?
5. What would it feel like to be trusted by God to be in charge of his Church?
6. Peter was able to recognize Jesus for who he really was. How can you recognize Jesus in others?

Thanks to the Lector Ministry for these questions.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, help us to seek the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world. In our desire for what you promise make us one in mind and heart. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Christ our Lord, Amen.



GOSPEL WORD SEARCH

H S E L F D P A E W
 W L T S J L E K S B
 P J V O R R T G O H
 B P N L A O E V O B
 D A R S E W R W L K
 H O E O I R I O C T
 A A O K P E C O B P
 C P Y L F H R G P G
 B I N D B T E Q F A
 E P M I I E A T P A
 J Y B Z Q N Z R S D
 P H I L I P P I R H
 T S I T P A B L E N
 L B C H I E I A V O
 K I Q H L M V L E I
 O W A P R E A S A G
 X E O V N I L N L E
 E E E L E S S Y E R
 P R Y Y I R H T D A
 E L I J A H P C J X

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|----------|-------------|
| BAPTIST | MAN |
| BIND | NETHERWORLD |
| BLOOD | PEOPLE |
| CAESAREA | PETER |
| CHRIST | PHILIPPI |
| ELIJAH | PREVAIL |
| FLESH | PROPHETS |
| HEAVENLY | REGION |
| JONAH | REVEALED |
| LOOSE | ROCK |

GOSPEL GLOSSARY

The **Son of Man** is another name for the Messiah, Jesus.

A **prophet** is a holy man who shares special wisdom from God.

Revealed means shown for the first time.

To bind means to put something under obligation by law.

To loose means to take away the obligation to do something.