

**FIRST READING**

Romans 11:33–36

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**B**rothers 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**

*Psalm 138:1–2a, 2bc & 3, 6  
& 8cde*

**All:** *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.*

**All:** *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.*

**All:** *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!*

**All:** *Lord, your love is eternal.*

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 16:13–20

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

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.**