

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23rd, 2026

FAITH @ HOME

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

[Full readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#). (Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can listen and audio with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, John Hilton II channel, 4:03 min)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Bible Animation channel, 1:05 min)

2. PRAY

Gather with your family or a friend around a prayer space in your home. Place in your prayer space a bible, a crucifix, a candle and a picture of Jesus that's readily available.

(Begin with the sign of the cross.)

Heavenly Father: you sent your son Jesus to the world so that we can come to know and love you more intentionally. Open our ears to the words of Jesus and let them take root in our hearts. Open our eyes to see how Jesus is active in my life and help me to acknowledge his presence around me. Open my heart to let the love of Jesus transform me. Amen.

3. TALK

In today's Gospel Jesus asks his disciples to tell him who they think he is for them. That same question still resounds in our modern world today and it is directed to the modern disciples, all of us who profess faith in Jesus.

What would you answer to someone who comes to you and ask that you tell them about Jesus? What would you say?

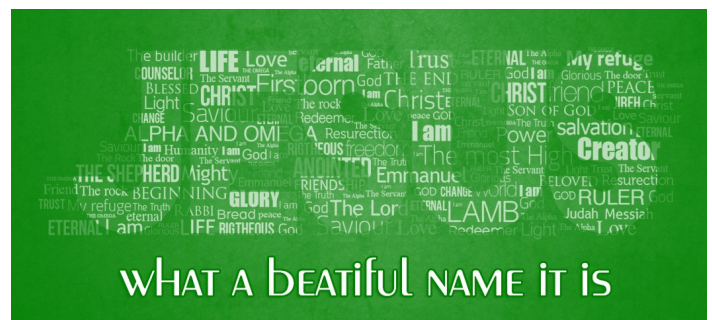
Spend a few moments in silence to reflect on who Jesus is for you. (If desired, instrumental music can play in the background.)

From the group of disciples who heard the question from Jesus, is Peter who takes the initiative and proclaims to the world what they all have come to know during the time they have spent following Jesus. Peter affirms that Jesus is the **Son of God**, the one who was to come to the world.

Based on your own experience of Jesus, what other names can you create for him?

Take a moment to create at least one other name for Jesus, following the example of Peter.

When ready, share with the whole group your name for Jesus and explain why that name is significant for you.



Share with us how you are living out your faith at home. Use #LACatholicsBelieve and tag @LACatholics on social media.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Office of Religious Education
ore@la-archdiocese.org; www.lacatholics.org/religious-