

## **A reading from the book of Ephesians 2:17-22 and Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, <sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone;<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>21</sup> in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually<sup>[b]</sup> into a dwelling place for God.

### **Peter's Declaration about Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> 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,<sup>[a]</sup> 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,<sup>[b]</sup> and on this rock<sup>[c]</sup> 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<sup>[d]</sup> the Messiah.<sup>[e]</sup>

*"The Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God." OR "Here ends the reading."*