



Sentence

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Matthew 16.15-16

Prayer of the day

O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith:

give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth
the Son of the living God,

we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

A reading from the book of the Exodus.

The story of the Hebrews in Egypt continues with the birth of Moses who will eventually become the person God calls to lead his oppressed people to leave. It is impossible to discern what historical events lie behind these stories but they are foundational to the special relationship of God to the Hebrews expressed in the covenant God will later make with Moses.

A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar

and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.' Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and

nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’ *Exodus 1.8-2.10*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 124 at 8am APBA p. 361

A song of communal thanksgiving in which Israel is delivered from every threat by the same God who brought them out of Egypt.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

This letter contains Paul’s longest and most sustained argument for trusting God to have been, and continuing to be, at work for the redemption of creation in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He writes to Gentiles living in Rome, whom he has not met exhorting them to live renewed lives in the community of faith without arrogance towards others. Do you notice the familiar words of the dismissal prayer at the close of eucharist?

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12.1-8

Reader May your word live in us
All And bear much fruit to your glory

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!
Simon Peter said to the Lord,
'You are the Son of the living God'

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus asked this questions of the disciples while they are north of the Galilee (today's Banias near the Syrian border) in an area where many temples to various Greek and Roman gods were to be found. Peter's response embraces two royal titles – one from Israel's past – messiah= anointed one, and son of god= divine ruler, from the culture around them but which is also used of King David in the psalms.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' 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. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 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.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. *Matthew 16.13-20*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer of the week

Creator God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:
teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Readings for next week:

Martyrs of New Guinea *transferred*

Zephaniah 3.14-20 Psalm 130 Romans 8.33-39 John 12.20-32

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Elfrida Reeson, Edna Jane Fyfe, Ray Pritchard, Catriona Elizabeth Scott, Clifford Smith, Clifford Searby, Rose MacPherson, John Sanderson, Burnice Furzer
whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week

August 29 Beheading John the Baptist (Mk.6.14-29; Mt.14.1-12; Lk.9.7-9)

August 31 John Bunyan, preacher and spiritual writer (1628-1688). Best known for *Pilgrim's Progress* (the most popular Christian book after the bible)

August 31 - Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d.651). A monk at Iona, missionary to the English and later first abbot of Lindisfarne.

September 2- The martyrs of New Guinea (d. 1942 during the Japanese invasion)

