

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 16

August 23, 2026

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]

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Peter's Hands with Bible and Key
Wood carving, detail, Sint-Pauluskerk,
Antwerp, Belgium, 17th century.

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Psalm 124

- ❖ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—
- ❖ if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
- ❖ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
- ❖ then the flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us;
- ❖ then over us would have gone the raging waters.
- ❖ Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
- ❖ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- ❖ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Romans 12:1-8 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, 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 judgment, 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 encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20 Now 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.

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Psalm 138

- ❖ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
- ❖ I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
- ❖ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.
- ❖ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

- ❖ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
- ❖ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.
- ❖ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
- ❖ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

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Texts in gray Alternate first reading and Psalm

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 16

August 23, 2026

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, 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 encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20 Now 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.

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