

Twenty-first Sunday | Year A

August 27, 2023 (Isa 22:19-23 | Romans 11:33-36 | Matthew 15:16-20)

By the word of the Lord, Isaiah indicts Shebna, the governor of King Hilkiyah. Shebna will be removed from his position because of his self-righteousness. Let us humbly turn to God.

1/ Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts, for his love for us is eternal. For every nation and people on earth. We pray that Pope Francis, pastors, and deacons learn to lead the faithful in giving thanks to God and to guide them into the paths of salvation. Let us pray.

2/ In praising the goodness and wisdom of God, Paul asks the Romans, “Who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?” For no one has ever given God anything, so as to be repaid. For those who think that they have already given something to the Lord. We pray that Paul’s message may remind them that no one has given God anything. Let us pray.

3/ While in the region of Caesarea Phillipi—a non-Jewish territory—Jesus’s disciples call him, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” For all peoples and nations that have not recognized the role of Jesus. We pray that the Christian confession of Jesus as the Son of the living God continue to be proclaimed to the world and accepted by many. Let us pray.

4/ Because of his confession of Jesus as the Son of the living God, Peter was given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. For our sisters and brothers who, in live, confessed that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God, but have now departed from us. We pray that, through their confession of Jesus, God grant them the paths to heaven. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Sonny and Betty Hardesty; **[at 10:00 AM]** James and Virgina Wilkins. Let us pray.

Lord God of power and might, nothing is good which is against your will, and all is of value which comes from your hand. Place in our hearts a desire to please you and fill our minds with insight into your wisdom, so that our every action may flow from your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.