

## Gospel Reflection

During Jesus' time, there were many beliefs circulating about the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed of God. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all recount the story of Peter's profession of faith at Caesarea Philippi; only Matthew inserts the portion we hear today in which this inbreaking manifestation of faith for Peter makes of him the rock on which Jesus can found a church. Jesus knows, as he illustrated earlier in Matthew's Gospel with the parable of the houses built on sand and rock, that nothing can endure that doesn't have a sure foundation. We also hear Jesus today immediately follow up Peter's profession with a strict command not to go around right away and tell this to others. The faith that breaks in is the foundation, but it takes time and teaching and discernment to comprehend it adequately in order to tell others about it. Indeed, in all three Gospels, the very first thing Jesus does after he is revealed as Christ through Peter's faith is to begin teaching his followers that to be "Messiah" or "Christ" means to suffer much and to die, neither of which was commonly believed about God's Anointed One.

Throughout the Gospels there is a relentless teaching by Jesus that how we live and act on earth is intimately connected to the workings of God's heavenly reign. "Your will be done on earth as in heaven" we pray, and "forgive us as we forgive others." In Matthew's Gospel the Last Judgment is portrayed with us being told that the manner in which we treated the hungry, poor, lowly, and oppressed is how we treated Christ. Today Jesus gives Peter – and all of us, the baptized, the church– our vocation. We can misread or misunderstand this passage to think that we have been imbued with some sort of control over the workings of heavenly grace and mercy. Rather, Jesus gives us a potent (and a bit overwhelming) charge to live the life of heaven's boundless forgiveness, to be witnesses to him, the Messiah, the Christ who, as he died on the cross to fulfill the work of those names, made his last words, "Father, forgive them."

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 16:13-20*

D L R O W R E H T E N D C  
 J E R E M I A H N E N O H  
 J X L B T X H O D S H G R  
 E A Y I K E O T Y L O G I  
 B I N D J N P E R H J N S  
 E S O O L A K N E A A I T  
 P V H L O A H A O L E V T  
 N O E A V W V Z N M E I T  
 R T P X Y E G U U F I L C  
 Q N I R N B Q C O R F S A  
 P E H K X E S U N U O A A  
 W X Q S N Z O L B I P C U  
 T H U F R E N I J L L V K

***Find these words from the Gospel passage.***

BIND	CHRIST	SIMON-PETER
ELIJAH	HEAVEN	JEREMIAH
JOHN	KEYS	LIVING GOD
LOOSE	ROCK	NETHERWORLD
EARTH	SON	TELL NO ONE

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8/24/2008*

*Matthew 16:13-20  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.  
Claremont, CA  
[www.olaclaremont.org](http://www.olaclaremont.org)

## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 16:13-20*

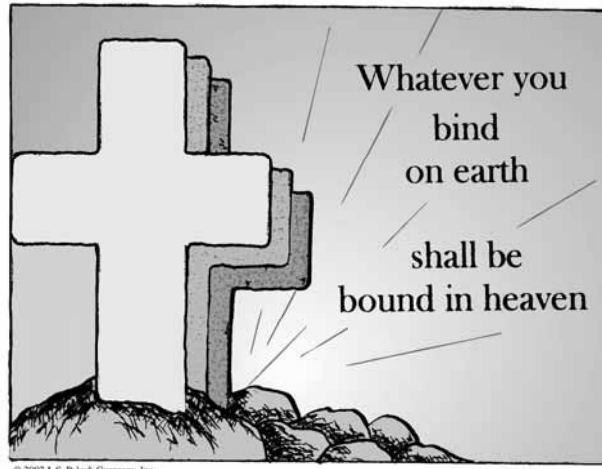
### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

Jesus went into the region of Ceasarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others **Elijah**, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of **the netherworld** shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to **tell no one** that he was the Christ.

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



© 2007 J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

### **Gospel Glossary**

**Elijah:** an Old Testament prophet who performed dramatic miracles – raising the dead, miraculously feeding multitudes, etc. – very similar to those performed by Jesus

**the netherworld:** the place of the dead, usually taken to be synonymous with "hell"

**tell no one:** Here, as in several other places in the gospels, Jesus attempts to keep his identity as the Messiah a secret.



*The Delivery of the Keys by Pietro Perugino*

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- How has Jesus been revealed to me as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God"?
- How do I announce the identity of Jesus to others through my conduct?
- How is Jesus building up his Church through me?

## Closing Prayer

Lord our God,

All truth is from you, and you alone bring oneness of heart. Grant us the joy of hearing your word in every sound and of longing for your presence more than for life itself. May all the attractions of this changing world serve only to bring us the peace of your kingdom – a peace which the world cannot give. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**