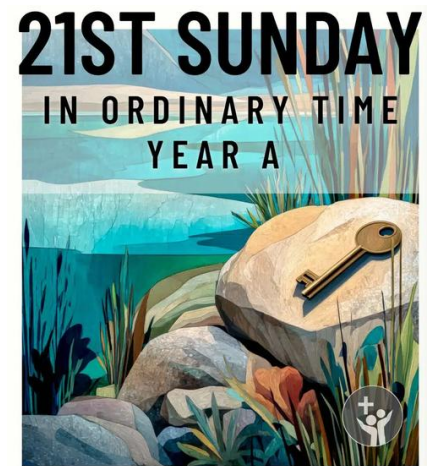


August 23, 2026



On the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, we hear about strength, trust, and responsibility. God chooses people for His work and gives them what they need to carry it out. Each reading shows how God works through others to guide His people.

Isaiah tells of Shebna losing his role and Eliakim being raised up instead. God chooses Eliakim and gives him real authority. He becomes like a peg, steady and trusted, holding up his family and his people.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives Peter a new mission. Peter recognizes Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus responds by giving him the keys of the kingdom and calling him the rock on which the Church will stand. This reading helps us reflect on faith and leadership.

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to think about who we trust and follow. God is always working, even when we don't fully understand. He gives strength and purpose to those who say yes to Him.

- **God's Authority Over Leaders:** God removes Shebna and gives authority to Eliakim. This shows that God chooses leaders and can take away their power.
- **Christ as the Foundation:** Jesus tells Peter that He will build His Church on him. This shows that the Church is established by Christ and will last.
- **Faith and Recognition of Jesus:** Peter calls Jesus the Son of God. His faith allows him to see the truth about Jesus.
- **Wisdom of God:** Paul reminds us that God's wisdom is beyond human understanding. No one can fully know God's ways.
- **Keys of the Kingdom:** Jesus gives Peter the keys to heaven. This shows that the Church has authority to guide people to God.
- **Glory Belongs to God:** Everything comes from God and exists for Him. All honor should go to Him.

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God is in control. He gives authority and wisdom to those who trust in Him.

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.

Matthew 16:18

Prayer

Lord, you are the source of wisdom and strength.
Help us to trust in your plan, even when we do not understand it.
Teach us to lead with humility and to serve others with love.
Strengthen our faith so that we may follow you fully.
Guide us to always seek your truth.
Amen.

