

Season after Pentecost, Proper 16A

(Sunday between August 21 and August 27 inclusive)

Color: Green

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Exodus 1:8-2:10](#) (*Pharaoh's daughter takes Moses as her son*)

[Psalm 124](#) (*We have escaped like a bird; our help is in the name of the Lord*)

[Romans 12:1-8](#) (*A living sacrifice; One body in Christ, though with many gifts*)

[Matthew 16:13-20](#) (*The profession of Peter's faith: You are the Messiah, the Son of God*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Isaiah 51:1-6](#) (*The rock from which you are hewn; the endurance of God's salvation*)

[Psalm 138](#) (*O Lord, your love endures forever*)

Themes: God's Salvation, God: our Help, Unity, Gifts, Christ's Church

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Be Still, My Soul (<i>FINLANDIA</i>)	Exodus, Psalm 124
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (<i>WESTMINSTER ABBEY; REGENT SQUARE</i>)	Isaiah, Romans, Matthew
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (<i>NETTLETON</i>)	Exodus, Romans
Children of the Heavenly Father (<i>TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA</i>)	Exodus
Here I Am, Lord (<i>HERE I AM</i>)	Romans, Matthew
How Firm a Foundation (<i>FOUNDATION</i>)	Romans, Matthew
I Come With Joy (<i>LAND OF REST; DOVE OF PEACE</i>)	Romans, Communion
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (<i>ST. AGNES</i>)	Matthew
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (<i>THE SOLID ROCK; MELITA</i>)	Isaiah, Matthew
One Bread, One Body (<i>ONE BREAD, ONE BODY</i>)	Romans, Communion
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (<i>TOPLADY</i>)	Exodus, Psalms, Matthew
Stand Up and Bless the Lord (<i>OLD 134TH</i>)	Psalm 138
Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated (<i>HENDON; MESSIAH</i>)	Romans
The Church of Christ in Every Age (<i>WAREHAM</i>)	Matthew
The Church's One Foundation (<i>AURELIA</i>)	Romans, Matthew

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

The choral music suggestions during summer months are all relatively easy and accessible, reflecting a season when most church choirs take weeks off or change their rehearsal schedule. Several of these anthems are adaptable to fit small choirs or ensembles and can be prepared in one rehearsal.

Christ Is Our Rock - EIsaiah, Matthew
SINE NOMINE/Mark Kellner, arr.
© 2000, Concordia Publishing, 98-3551
SAB, Keyboard, opt. Flute

Come, Build a Church - ME Romans, Matthew
Ken Medema
© 1995, Hope Publishing, GC 964
SATB, Piano (also available in SAB)

How Firm a Foundation - EIsaiah, Matthew
FOUNDATION/Paul E. Koch, arr.
© 2009, MorningStar Music, 50-0008
2-Part Mixed, Organ

Rock of Ages - M.....Isaiah, Matthew
TOPLADY/Klayton Hoefler, arr.
© 2018, Choristers Guild, CGA 1544
SATB, Piano

Thy Holy Wings - M Exodus, Psalm 124
BRED DINA VIDA VINGARI/Emma Lou Diemer, arr.
© 2009, MorningStar Music, 50-6523
SATB, Keyboard, Flute, Cello

Upon This Rock - M Matthew
Pepper Choplin
© 2009, Lorenz Publishing, 10/3906L
SATB, Percussion (also available in SAB)

Smaller Choirs and Intergenerational

Halle, Hallelujah - EIsaiah, Matthew
Caribbean Melody/John Michniewicz, arr.
with verses from "Rock of Ages"
© 1995, Choristers Guild, CGA 711
2-Part, Piano, opt. Percussion

How Firm a Foundation - EIsaiah, Matthew
ASH GROVE/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 1981, Harold Flammer, Inc. Press, EA-5031
2-Part, Keyboard

Built on the Rock - EIsaiah, Matthew
KIRKEN/Alfred V. Fedak, arr.
© 1990, Selah Publishing, 241-503-00
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard, opt. Handbells

The Kingdom of the Lord - E Romans
Natalie Sleeth
© 1976, Art Masters Studio, 301
2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Flute

With My Whole Heart - E Psalm 138
Daniel C. Meyer
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5116
Unison, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*The Church of Christ in every age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.*

— F. PRATT GREEN (1903-2000)

CALLS TO WORSHIP

(based upon Psalm 138)

Leader: I will praise you, God, with all my heart!
People: Do not abandon the works of your hands.
Leader: I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name!
People: Do not overlook us from your lofty heights.
Leader: May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord; may they sing of the great ways of the Lord!
People: I am calling to you, my Lord.
Leader: Though the Lord is exalted, the Lord sees the lowly;
People: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, the Lord preserves my life.
Leader: The Lord protects us,
People: The Lord is with us;
All: Your love, Lord, endures forever.

(based upon Matthew 16:13-20)

Leader: Who do people say that the Son of Man is?
Men: Some people say a good man.
Women: Some people say a teacher.
People: Some people say no one, really.
Leader: Who do you say that I am?
Men: You are Christ.
Women: You are the Word, born in the beginning of time.
People: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Leader: Be my rock in the world, be my people. Stand firm for me and do what you have seen me do.
People: We are the church, and the gates of Hades cannot overcome us.

— MARTHA DIXON KEARSE*

LITANY OF ATTENTION

(based upon Isaiah 51:1-6)

Leader: Friends, enter into the house of the Lord; worship God with your whole being.
People: Let us hear what the Lord our God will speak.
Leader: Surely God's salvation is at hand.
People: God's glory dwells in our land.
Leader: God's steadfast love conquers fear.
People: But the cry of injustice is loud in our land.
Leader: And God hears the voices of the oppressed and is changing hearts and minds.
People: But we are a divided people looking for a fight.
Leader: And God provides a peace that passes all understanding.
People: Let us wait for what the Lord our God will speak.
All: Surely the Lord will give us what is good.
God will provide a path to follow God's steps.

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Lord God, made of righteousness, owner of justice, bringer of light, shine in our eyes today. Illuminate every space around us; show us what has been in the shadows, the things we have ignored because we chose not to see them. Break through our apathy and help us to hear the joyful singing which could be ours if only we followed your instruction. Help us to reach out for your arm, to pull ourselves up with your strength. Make Eden a real garden in our hearts, something we hope for, something we work for, something we see as real, as possible. Erase the permission we give ourselves to be intentionally ignorant of the cries of those around us who are pummeled by injustice, but light our lives with a hopeful need to work for justice; let your righteousness ring in our ears. Let the greatest of our fears be that we failed to see, failed to listen, failed to learn, failed to find the garden you have offered to us all, together. In grateful praise, we say together:

“Let it be so, Amen.”

DRAMATIC READING FOR TWO READERS

(of Romans 12:1–8)

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|--|---|
| 1: How do I think of myself in your eyes, God? | 1: Like I am good with words, and my friend makes furniture. |
| 2: Offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing. | 2: Exactly! Together, you make up a Body. Each part is important but needs the others to flourish. |
| 1: I’m not sure what that means. | 1: So think of myself as important, but not more important than others. How is that transformation? |
| 2: It’s ok to be different from those around you; don’t conform but be transformed. | 2: Think of being transformed from a single cell, floating around by itself, into a cell that connects to many other cells, a cell that can do more because it is part of something larger. |
| 1: Transformed? Into what? | 1: So not transformed like “Now I’m an otter!” but transformed like “Now I’m part of something bigger.” |
| 2: Let Me renew your mind. Think of it this way—you have a body, right? | 2: Yes. Part of Me—connected to God, to others, to the earth, to the world. |
| 1: I do. Don’t we all? | 1: Be transformed. Be one body. |
| 2: Ok, think of being with Me as being part of One Big Body, connected. | 2: It is a good life, rich in community, filled with love, aware of the world and a place in it. |
| 1: Like being made of stardust? | 1: I like it. |
| 2: Well, yes, but also like being made of your grandparents, being made of your history, being made of the same things as the people in your city, your community. | 2: Good. |
| 1: Ok, I see that. | |
| 2: You are unique, given specific gifts. Think of your gifts as working with the gifts of others. | |

[continued...]

PRAYER OF SIMON PETER

Lord, you asked me to be your rock, and I am trying. It is hard to be solid, to be firm, to be one thing. A lot of times, I cannot tell what is the right thing to do, I don't know where to go next. I watched you in awe, but also in confusion. It took me a long time to have any understanding of why you said what you said, why you did what you did. Help me to keep listening to your words; help me to keep watching what you do. I want to be your rock, reliable, strong, whole. Something you can build on. Lead me when I am confused, teach me when I am ignorant, pull me back when I wander, chisel me into the shape you need me to take so that I can hold up my piece of the world you would like to build. Let me take my place, so well formed that the weight lies on my shoulders with ease. Lord, you asked me to be your rock; help me to do so. Amen.

LITANY OF REVELATION

(based upon Isaiah 51:1-6)

Leader: Glory be to God, for God is revealed in the waves of the ocean and the height of the trees.

People: **Glory be to God, for God is revealed in scripture and in the lives of those who look for God.**

Leader: God is revealed in the people of Israel.

People: **God is revealed in the person of Jesus, the Christ.**

Leader: God is revealed in the Spirit, the wind and breath of God.

People: **God is still being revealed.**

Leader: Reveal yourself to us, Oh God!

People: **Let us see beyond the smallness of our lives, beyond the limits of our place.**

Leader: Glory be to God, for God is revealed anew each day!

All: **Glory be to God, for God is revealed in me!**

* Thanks to Martha Dixon Kearse for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor