

Prayer for Illumination

Source of all wisdom and understanding,

Amid so many competing voices,

Let us hear your word for our times.

Send your Holy Spirit to help us discern your will

And follow the path Jesus sets for us as your Living Word.

Amen

First Reading: Psalm 138

Of David

¹ I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;

before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple

and will praise your name

for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

for you have so exalted your solemn decree

that it surpasses your fame.

³ When I called, you answered me;

you greatly emboldened me.

⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,

when they hear what you have decreed.

⁵ May they sing of the ways of the Lord,

for the glory of the Lord is great.

**⁶ Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

**⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.**

**You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.**

**⁸ The Lord will vindicate me;
your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Peter Declares That Jesus Is The Messiah

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my

Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[b] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[d] loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.