

Psalm 138

In Psalm 138 the psalmist praises God for His help, believing the Lord God hears us when we call to Him. The psalmist praises 'The Lord'. 'The Lord' was the special title the Jews used for God. God's name was sacred and could not be mentioned, even in worship. Instead, they addressed Adonai, the Lord God or Sovereign Lord. This was the covenant name for God. God continually made covenants with his people. He did so with Abraham, Noah and Moses, for instance. The formula was always the same: 'I will be your God and you will be my people.' God always kept His side of the agreement, of course, but Israel did not. When Israel was invaded, their prophets reminded them it was because they had broken their side of the agreement. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, the psalmist recognises that God's love for His people never ends and He will always send help to us. The right hand of God – His strength – lasts for ever, because God will keep His covenant promise and always hears those who call to Him.

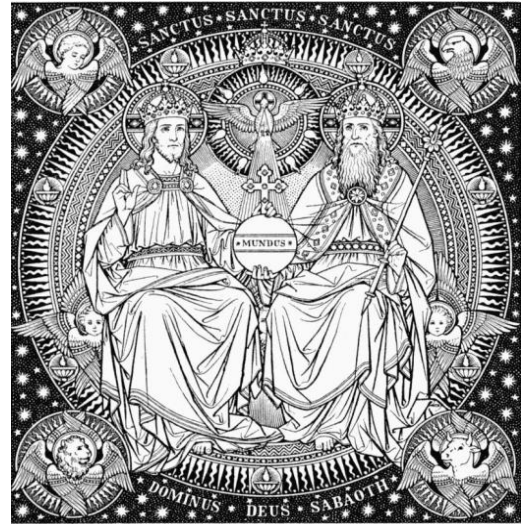
24th August: St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew's relics were enshrined on an island in the Tiber in Rome that was used as a hospital. Hence, he has always been associated with the sick.

St Bartholomew, Holy Apostle of the Lord, pray for us!

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give to thine Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach thy Word: Grant, we beseech thee, unto thy Church, to love that Word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 23rd August 2026 Trinity 12 / 21st Ordinary Gospel: Matt 16: 13 – 20



Today's Gospel is called 'the Confession of St Peter' because, by a gift of divine grace, Peter confesses right belief in Jesus Christ. He knows him to be 'the Christ, the Son of the living God'. Peter sees the truth of who Christ is and speaks it aloud in definite terms. To confess that Jesus is the Christ – to say 'true God from true God, consubstantial with the Father' – has profound and far-reaching consequences. We see it here in a new name given: Simon becomes Peter. This is not simply a name-change but a whole life change. It is a mission given. And as we know from Christian history, Peter's confession of Christ would lead him far from the shores of the lakes he once fished, all the way to Rome, and to a witness that would be total – the witness of martyrdom. Be wholly open to what the Lord wants to do with you and your faith, how he wants to use you, where he wants to send you, that He might be glorified.