

**August 27, 2023**

**Please stand for the Reading of the Scripture:  
Matthew 16:13-20 (ESV)**

**Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”  
<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock<sup>[a]</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of hell<sup>[b]</sup> shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed<sup>[c]</sup> in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God....**

**All: Thanks be to God**