

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 89

Response: “Your love and your promise are true, O God, are true.”

Today’s readings focus on the power and fidelity of God made manifest in human ministry.

- **Isaiah delivers to Shebna the results of his unfaithful behavior.**
- **God will continue, a new officer will be appointed who will be invested with the keys, a symbol of power and authority of God.**
- **In the Gospel reading Peter is given the keys to the kingdom, symbolizing the power and authority of Christ. Christ responds to the faith expressed by Peter.**

Summarizing the readings for the children:

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 (*This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.*)

In today’s first reading, God says to Shebna, the officer in charge of the palace, “Because you have been so wicked, you can no longer be an officer of the palace.” God gave the keys and the power of the palace to Eliakim. God said that he would be like a father to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. God would give the keys of the house of David to Eliakim. He would be able to open and shut the doors and no one would stop him. Eliakim would bring honor to the house of David.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-19 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do people say I am?” They said that some thought he was John the Baptist, others the prophet Elijah, or Jeremiah, or some other prophet. Then Jesus asked, “And who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered him, “You are the Christ. You are the Son of the living God.” Jesus told Simon that he was blessed. Simon did not learn from any human being that Jesus was the Son of the living God. God told Simon through his faith. Jesus told Simon he would now be called Peter, which means “rock”. Jesus then said, “On this rock I will build my church.” Peter would be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. The church would be stronger than the gates of hell and nothing would be able to destroy it.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Nothing is more important than each of us coming to a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ. To do this we must know who Jesus is. Jesus was always showing the disciples who he was. In the same way he continues to show us who he is. But this on-going revelation centers on this question of faith – “Who do you say I am?” Because of the faith of Peter and the disciples we have the church. In the church we can know Jesus.

Reflection Questions for the Children:

Ask the children about the Gospel reading:

- **What did Jesus ask the disciples?**
- **What did they answer?**
- **What did Peter answer?**
- **What did Jesus promise Peter?**

Now the big family question:

- **If Jesus asked you, “Who do you say I am?” what would you say?**

“Nothing is more important than each of us coming to a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ.”