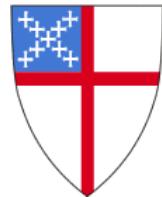


**The Lessons Appointed for Use on the  
Sunday closest to August 24**

**Year A  
Proper 16  
RCL**



***Track 1***

Romans 12:1-8  
Psalm 124  
Matthew 16:13-20

**The Collect**

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The Epistle**

**Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**The Response**

**Psalm 124**

*Nisi quia Dominus*

1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;

2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

## The Gospel

### Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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*Optional parts of the readings are set off in square brackets.*

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*The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.*

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