

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness  
and who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut  
and to the quarry from which you were  
hewn;

<sup>2</sup> look to Abraham, your father,  
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man,  
and I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will surely comfort Zion  
and will look with compassion on all her  
ruins;

he will make her deserts like Eden,  
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

<sup>4</sup> "Listen to me, my people;  
hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;  
my justice will become a light to the  
nations.

<sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near speedily,  
my salvation is on the way,  
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me  
and wait in hope for my arm.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
look at the earth beneath;  
the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment  
and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation will last forever,  
my righteousness will never fail.

**SECOND READING: Romans 12: 1-8**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in  
view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a  
living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this  
is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not  
conform to the pattern of this world, but be  
transformed by the renewing of your  
mind. Then you will be able to test and

approve what God's will is—his good,  
pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace  
given me I say to every one of you: Do not  
think of yourself more highly than you ought,  
but rather think of yourself with sober  
judgment, in accordance with the faith God  
has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as  
each of us has one body with many members,  
and these members do not all have the same  
function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form  
one body, and each member belongs to all  
the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according  
to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is  
prophesying, then prophesy in accordance  
with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it  
is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage,  
then give encouragement; if it is giving, then  
give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently;  
if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16: 13-20**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea  
Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do  
people say the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> They  
replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say  
Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the  
prophets." <sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he  
asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter  
answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of  
the living God." <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are  
Peter, and on this rock I will build my  
church, and the gates of Hades will not  
overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the  
kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on  
earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever  
you loose on earth will be loosed in  
heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not  
to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.