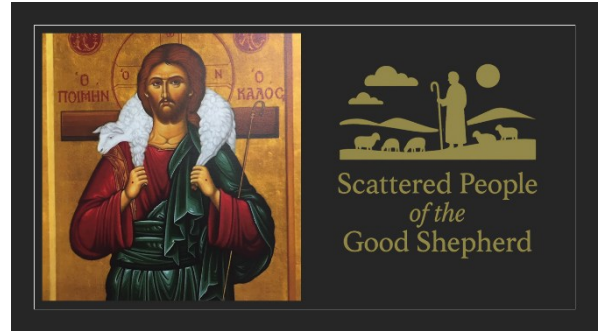


Collect and Readings for Sunday 23 August 2026



Collect for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

*E te Atua Kaha rawa mutungakore, nā tōu Wairua ka kawanatia ka whakatapua te kāhui o te Hāhi; whakarongo mai ki tā mātou īnoi mō āu tāngata whakapono katoa, mā roto i a mātou minitanga, nāu nei mātou i karanga kia mahi ki a koe i roto i te tapu me te pono; Ko Īhu Karaiti tō mātou Ariki me tōu mātou Kaiwhakaora. **Āmine.***

Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; hear the prayer we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called us we may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 51: 1-6

51 Listen to me,
you who look for righteousness,
you who seek the Lord:
Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry where you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your ancestor,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.
They were alone when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.
³ The Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her ruins.
He will make her desert like Eden
and her wilderness like the Lord's garden.
Happiness and joy will be found in her—
thanks and the sound of singing.

⁴ Pay attention to me, my people;
listen to me, my nation,
for teaching will go out from me,
my justice, as a light to the nations.
⁵ I will quickly bring my victory.
My salvation is on its way,
and my arm will judge the peoples.
The coastlands hope for me;
they wait for my judgment. ^[a]
⁶ Look up to the heavens,
and gaze at the earth beneath.
The heavens will disappear like smoke,
the earth will wear out like clothing,
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will endure forever,
and my righteousness will be unbroken.

Epistle Reading – Romans 12: 1-8

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 16: 13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One^[a] is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

¹⁵ He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. ¹⁹ I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

[Translation: Common English Bible (CEB)]

Hymns for Sunday 23 August 2026

Opening Hymn:

Shout To The Lord

Verse

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus

*Shout to the Lord
all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty,
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the
work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You*

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Gradual Hymn

Living stones

Living stones of faith,
Loving stones of grace,
Building up Christ's body

All who gather in this place.
Welcome one and all!
People far and near,
Witness to your proclamation
You are dwelling here.

Living seeds of love,
Planted in the ground,
Pioneering people shared the
food of faith around
Handed down your Word,
Handed down your hope,
Living hope which
lives for ever
Promise of new growth.

Let us sing your grace,
Let us sing your word,
Sing your new song,
drink your new wine
Praise the living Lord!
Living stones of now,
Living stones to come,
Moving forward,
reaching outward
Praise the Three in One.

Living stones of faith,
Loving stones of grace,
Building up Christ's body
All who gather in this place.
Welcome one and all,
People far and near,
Witness to your proclamation
You are dwelling here.

(c) Mark and Emma Wilson

Offertory Hymn:
[O Worship the King](#)

O worship the King
All glorious above
and gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love
Our Shield and defender
The Ancient of Days
Pavilion'd in splendour
And girded with praise

Thy bountiful care
What tongue can recite
It breathes in the air
It shines in the light
It streams from the hills
It descends to the plain
And sweetly distils
In the dew and the rain

Frail children of dust
And feeble as frail
In Thee do we trust
Nor find Thee to fail
Thy mercies how tender
How firm to the end!
Our Maker Defender
Redeemer and Friend

Robert Grant, William
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During Communion:
[O Lord Hear My Prayer](#)

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

Closing Hymn:
[When I Survey The Wondrous Cross](#)

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Verse 2

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

Verse 3

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

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