

Reflection – Matthew 16:13-20

What a question Jesus asks His Disciples.

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
That is the challenge for us this morning “Who we say that Jesus is?”

How many different answers will we come up with between us? If we might be confused just think how others must feel.

I see this Gospel from Matthew as providing us with basic teaching about the life and words of Jesus. We are not sent out like the Charge of the Light Brigade to almost certain failure. Our Mission is to share in the victory of Jesus, in the way we show the Holy Spirit in our lives, witness and work.

In that way Jesus has won, He is Lord

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 30.08.26 Trinity 13
10.30am in the Church



OT Jeremiah 15: 15-21
NT Romans 12: 9-21
GOSPEL Matthew 16: 21-28

CONTACT US

Ian Totterdell, Church Warden 07536 459096
ian.totterdell@cantab.net
Mary Daunton, Church Warden 07779742792
Phil Baker, Licensed Lay Minister 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com
Revd Terry Litherland, 07594 633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com
Liz Pioneer Community Worker & LLM
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter
Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk
Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

23rd August 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

76 Christ is made the sure foundation
500 There is a Redeemer
73 Brother, sister, let me serve you
464 Take my life, and let it be

Wednesday 26th August

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 27th August

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny
Tuckett's house



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 51: 1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Psalms 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; ♦
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness; ♦
for you have glorified your name

and your word above all things.
In the day that I called to you, you answered me; ♦
you put new strength in my soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, ♦
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, ♦
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; ♦
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you will preserve me; ♦
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand will save me.
The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; ♦
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

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 judgement, 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.

Matthew 16: 13-20

Now 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.

Post Communion

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

Today we welcome Fr Terry to preside and preach at our service

During the current heatwave our church building is staying open until the early evening as a cool space.

Rev Hannah Alderson, our new Rector, will be licensed to our parish at 7.30pm on **Monday 7th September**. Please continue to pray for Hannah and her family as they prepare to move into our community.

We will be serving refreshments in the hall after the Licensing service and if you would like to help serve the refreshments on that evening, please speak to Mary.

Ian is back from his holiday on 25th August.