

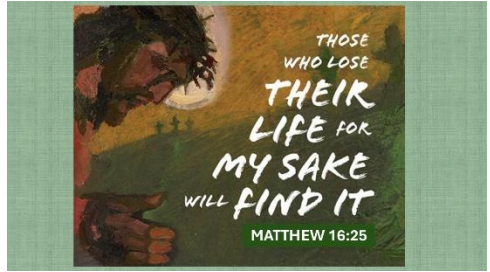
The Readings on This Day

***Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)

Sunday, August 28–September 3

Lectionary 22

Standard Sundays in Year A continue, as we eat both the word from Matthew and Paul and the sacrament in bread and wine.



[Jeremiah 15:15-21](#)

On this Sunday, it is as if the prophet Jeremiah anticipates Peter, and each of us, who both experience the cross and receive the comforting words of the saving God. Jeremiah condemns the perennial teaching that those who trust in God will have an easy life.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

We respond to the reading from Jeremiah with [Psalm 26:1-8](#). It is as if we also are Jeremiah, asking God for vindication from evildoers, distancing ourselves from the wicked, trusting in God and praising God's wonderful deeds. Singing the psalm helps us see that the first reading is about us.

[Romans 12:9-21](#)

Reading through Romans, today we encounter a passage with close connections to the appointed gospel. Paul speaks in brutal honesty about the difficulties of life as a Christian and with stunning rhetoric about the body of Christ seeking to overcome evil with good.

[Matthew 16:21-28](#)

This Sunday provides the second half of Matthew's comments about the responsibility and attitude of church leadership. The life that Christ offers is the cross, dying to ourselves, thus the opposite of how many human leaders function. All the baptized are carrying the cross on their forehead, wet in baptism, ashed at

the outset of each Lent. Yet it is the cross of Christ, not our own, that saves; and our salvation entails the death of our selves. It is a complex reading.