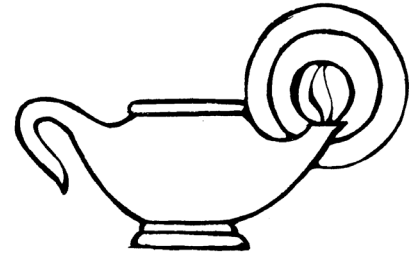


**Opening Prayer:** Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* “*The Book of Common Prayer,*” Proper 28, page 236. *Alternative Prayer, Proper 16, page 181 or 232.*

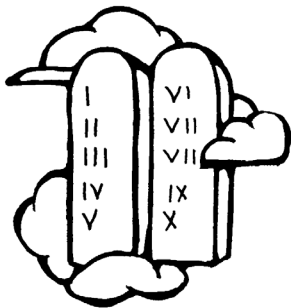


**Review of Last Week’s Lesson:** In Genesis 45, Joseph forgave his brothers and told them that God had sent him to Egypt for their good. With God’s help, Joseph had done well as an administrator in Egypt. As a result, Egypt was well prepared for the time of famine and now Joseph could provide for his brothers and their families. In Romans 11, Paul explained the status of both Jews and Gentiles before God. Matthew told us that when Jesus recognized the deep faith of the Canaanite (Gentile) woman, he immediately healed her daughter.

**Year A, Lesson 39  
Tenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Each of us is personally responsible for accepting Christ. Everyone is welcomed by God. No one is excluded from the opportunity to become a Christian.

**TODAY’S SCRIPTURES:**  
Exodus 1:8—2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20



**Background Notes: Exodus 1:8—2:10** ❖ During the seven-year famine in Canaan, Joseph’s eleven brothers and their families traveled to Egypt where they settled down with their families to live. They remained in Egypt for the rest of their lives. Their descendants grew in numbers for four hundred and thirty years and “the land was filled with them.” (Ex. 1:7, 12:41)

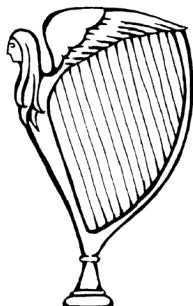
**TODAY’S THEME:**  
Love, honor and serve God.

**MEMORY VERSE:**  
Romans 12:2

**Questions:**

1. Why was Pharaoh afraid of the sons of Israel who lived among the Egyptians? (Ex. 1:8-10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What plan did Pharaoh propose for dealing with the sons of Israel? (Ex. 1:10-11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe the results of Pharaoh’s plan. (Ex. 1:12-14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When Pharaoh did not get the results he wanted, what was his second plan? (Ex. 1:15-16) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What effect did this plan have? (Ex. 1:17-21) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was Pharaoh’s final solution to the problem of having so many sons of Israel in Egypt? (Ex. 1:22)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe what happened to the baby boy who was born to the Levite couple. (Ex. 2:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Describe how God protected the Levite baby. (Ex. 2:5-10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What part of this account is most impressive to you? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Background Notes: Psalm 124** ❖ Psalm 124 recalls the escape of the Israelite people out of Egypt.

**Questions:**

1. What would have happened to the people of Israel if the Lord had not been on their side? (Ps. 124:1-5; Ex. 14:5-14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe what happened to Moses and his people, and to Pharaoh and his soldiers. (Ps. 124:4-7; Ex. 14:21-31) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The Israelites thanked God for his protection (Ps. 124:8). Under what circumstances have you felt a similar sense of overwhelming gratitude? (*Personal*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Background Notes: Romans 12:1-8** ❖ God created us to be different from one another. Paul explained how God uses these differences to strengthen the church.

**Questions:**

1. What did Paul recommend that we do with our bodies and our lives? (Rom. 12:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain verses 3-5 as if you were talking to a new Christian. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are some of the various gifts God gives us? (Rom. 12:6-8) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What gifts do you have and how do you use them in both your Christian work and your everyday activities? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Background Notes: Matthew 16:13-20** ❖ The disciples traveled with Jesus and became familiar with his human qualities and his special powers. They saw him turn water into wine, heal the sick and infirm, walk on water, feed large crowds using very little food, and yet have food left over. Still, they did not really understand who Jesus was. It was important for the disciples to comprehend the relationship Jesus had with God. In these verses Peter recognized that Jesus was the Messiah who had been promised throughout Jewish history.

**Questions:**

1. What question did Jesus ask the disciples to answer? (Mt. 16:13) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was their answer? (Mt. 16:14) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who did Peter say Jesus was? (Mt. 16:16) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Peter know who Christ was? (Mt. 16:17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Jesus' response when Peter said that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God"? (Mt. 16:18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain what Jesus meant by, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Mt. 16:18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did "rock" mean to Paul? (Rom. 9:33; I Cor. 3:11, 10:4; Eph. 2:20; Dt. 32:4, 15, 18, 30-31; Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; ) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. From the verses in Matthew, is the "rock" Peter, or Peter's faith in Christ and acknowledgment of the deity of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In your opinion, what or who is the "rock" upon which the church is built? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to live on earth and teach us how to worship you. We thank you for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life when we accept Christ as our Savior. We thank you for the care you have provided for your followers in the past. It is an example of how we can depend on you for guidance in the future. Please help us to be sensitive to the needs of others. *Amen.*

**Application for Next Week:** Peter was the first disciple to recognize the deity of Jesus. Jesus told him that it was through "my Father who is in heaven," that Peter had the insight to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. When did you recognize the deity of Jesus? What was it that caused you to recognize that Jesus is the "Son of the Living God"? Where were you? What were you doing?

