

Readings + 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 29 A + Oct. 22, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to Cyrus, the LORD's anointed,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip rulers of their robes,
to open doors before Cyrus —
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one
besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Psalmody Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD,
all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the
LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to
day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations and
God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be
praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
idols; but you, O LORD, have made the
heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your
presence; power and splendor are in your
sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy
name; bring offerings and enter the courts
of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is
king! The one who made the world so firm
that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the
field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for
joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come
to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness and
the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church
of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We
always give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ re-
membering before our God and Father your
work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know,
dear family beloved by God, that God has chosen
you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to
you not in word only, but also in power and in
the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as
you know what kind of persons we proved to be
among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became

imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell of this encounter between Jesus and the leadership, with few differences.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to Jesus, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.