

[140] **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **A**

FIRST READING

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations
Before his countenance.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

45:1, 4-6

The Lord said to Cyrus, his chosen one,
“I have taken hold of your right hand
to help you conquer nations and remove kings from power.
City gates will open for you.
Not one will stay closed.”

“Cyrus, you don’t even know me!
But I have called you by name and highly honored you,
because of Jacob, my servant,
and Israel, my chosen one.
Only I am the Lord!”

“There is no other God.
I have made you strong,
though you don’t know me.
Now everyone from east to west will know that I am the Lord.
No other gods are real.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

96:1 and 3, 4-5, 9-10abef

R. (7b) Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sing a new song to the Lord!
Everyone on this earth,
sing praises to the Lord.
Tell every nation on earth,
“The Lord is wonderful
and does marvelous things!”

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

“The Lord is great and deserves

our greatest praise!
He is the only God
worthy of our worship.
Other nations worship idols,
but the Lord created the heavens.”

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

“Everyone on earth, now tremble
and worship the Lord,
majestic and holy.”
Announce to the nations,
“The Lord is King!
God will judge the people
with fairness.”

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

SECOND READING

We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5b

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
To the church in Thessalonica,
the people of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that God will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers.
Each time we pray,
we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work
and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear friends, God loves you,
and we know he has chosen you to be his people.
When we told you the good news,
it was with the power and assurance
that come from the Holy Spirit,
and not simply with words.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Philippians 2:15d, 16a

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar
and to God the things that are God's.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus
into saying something wrong.

They sent some of their followers

and some of Herod's followers to say to him,

"Teacher, we know that you are honest.

You teach the truth about what God wants people to do.

And you treat everyone with the same respect,
no matter who they are.

Tell us what you think!

Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said,

"Why are you trying to test me? You showoffs!

Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes."

They brought him a silver coin, and he asked,

"Whose picture and name are on it?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

Then Jesus told them,

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him

and give God what belongs to God."

The gospel of the Lord.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Opening prayer:

Dear Jesus:

I know you love me and I hope you know that I love you too. I want to grow to be a good person and help make this world a good place to live. Dear Jesus please keep all of the boys and girls in the world close to you and help us to have a strong faith so might be good sons and daughters of God who is truly the Father of all of us.

Readings:

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Psalms 96:1-3, 4-5, 9-10abef

Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Matthew 22:15-21

Reflection:

If God called you by name, would you answer His call?

Do you think He would be calling out to you because you have been bad or because you have been good?

God calls a person not because they have been bad or good but because He knows each person by name and loves them no matter what they have done even if it was bad because God is pure love.

Discussion:

Paul said that he prayed for the people and asked God to bless them and give them peace, do you pray for other people? If your answer is no, why?

There is no greater gift than love and no better way to express that love than through prayer, what is your favored prayer?

Why do you think anyone would try to trick Jesus into saying something or doing something wrong?

What do you think Jesus meant when He said give to God what God wants and give to the Emperor what is the Emperor's?

Activity:

1. With a pencil and paper write a short prayer telling Jesus how much you love Him.
2. With a pencil write down as many things as you can remember that Jesus tried to teach the people.
3. Think about the coins that they were talking about and try to make a drawing on paper of what you think the coins looked like.
4. If there is someone you have not been kind to in some way hurt don't you think it would make Jesus happy if you would tell that person that you are sorry? Make a list of persons you need to tell that you are sorry to. **This is only between you and Jesus;** you do not need to show this list to anyone else, it is just to remind you to show only love to others as Jesus would.