

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him

and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you

and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³I 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶so 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.

⁷I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remem-
bering before our God and Father your work of

faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers
and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen
you, ⁵because 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. ⁶And you became imita-
tors of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecu-
tion you received the word with joy from the Holy
Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For 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. ⁹For they 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 ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from
heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus,
who rescues us from the coming wrath.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

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

Next Sunday's Readings: Reformation Sunday Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 or **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

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