

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

19th October 2008

First Reading

Isa. 45:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him — and the gates shall not be closed: 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, 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. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 96

Response: *Give the Lord glory and honour.*

O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,

tell among the nations his glory

and his wonders among all the peoples.

R.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,

to be feared above all gods;

the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens.

R.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,

give the Lord glory and power;

give the Lord the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts,

R.

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: “God is king.”

The world he made firm in its place;

he will judge the peoples in fairness.

R.

Second Reading

1 Thess. 1:1-5a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars;

you are offering it the word of life. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mtt. 22:15-21

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So 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 deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?”

They answered, “The emperor's.”

Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.”

For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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