

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps95

Response:

Give the Lord glory and power.

IO sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

(R.)

2.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.)

3.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.)

4.Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him,
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

(R.)

SECOND READING 1:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap him in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Does the law always protect the disadvantaged in society?

What is your duty, as a Christian, when the law denies the bare essentials to the disadvantaged? Is this the same as your duty as a citizen?

If there is a failure in civil law to treat someone justly are you required by the gospel to speak out on their behalf? Why or Why not?

Do you find it easy to sort out what belongs to civil authority and what belongs to God?

What basic Christian values –if any – should be part of civil law? How would this impact the fairness of the law for people who are non-Christian?

What is your obligation with regard to who you vote for as public officials? How can you learn which candidates stand for basic Christian values? Can you ever find a candidate who expresses only Christian-based values?

Why do professed Christians, in spite of their knowledge of Jesus and the gospels, sometimes deny others their basic human rights?

What is your responsibility in accepting the basic moral teachings of the church?

GOSPEL ACTION

Examine your attitude towards social justice issues. Should it be changed? Talk to people in your parish who work in the area of social justice, and find something you can do to help improve conditions in your community.

Readings – 30th Sunday Year A

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Second Reading: Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40