

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

*Psalm 96:1 & 3,
4-5, 9-10abef*

All: 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!”*

All: 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.”*

All: 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.”*

All: Give the Lord glory and honor.

SECOND READING
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
To the church of 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.

GOSPEL
Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.