

SUNDAY READINGS

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity, 18 October

COLLECT

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness
in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty may be changed
into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or this

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us
to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 45:1a,5-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

The Lord said to Cyrus, his chosen one:
Only I am the Lord! There are no other gods. I
have made you strong, though you don't know
me. Now everyone from east to west will learn
that I am the Lord. No other gods are real. I
create light and darkness, happiness and
sorrow. I, the Lord, do all of this.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 1:4,5a,8b-9**

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

You suffered, but the Holy Spirit made you glad.
Now the news of your faith in God is known all
over the world, and we don't have to say a thing
about it. Everyone is talking about how you
welcomed us and how you turned away from
idols to serve the true and living God.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL *Matthew 22:15-22*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

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 show-offs!
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.'

His answer surprised them so much that they
walked away.

At the end we say: Praise be to you O Christ

CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world
from the darkness of ignorance:
let these holy mysteries
open the eyes of our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Indicates that these appointed readings have been shortened today.

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