

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

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,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 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 am 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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 95:1,3-5,7-10

Response:

Give the Lord glory and power.

1. O 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 Th 1:1-5

A reading from the first 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between
them how to trap Jesus 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

I often think of the film, *Babette's Feast*, when
a well-served meal brought together a divided
group in mutual love and forgiveness. I also
think of a saying in the film that the only thing
we can take with us when we die is what we
have given away. May the good God help
us in the coming week to live what we have
celebrated here together.

(Fr Sean Kealy CSSp)

Sunday Message

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 18 October 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

TAXING QUESTIONS

MT 22:15-21



Today's Gospel has drawn conflicting interpretations throughout Christian history,
especially when it has been invoked for guidance on relations between church and state.

"Rendering to Caesar" has sometimes been taken to mean that Christians should keep religion
and politics strictly separate. But this isn't the point of this story. To understand it properly, we
need to bear in mind that the heart of Jesus' preaching was that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

That kingdom is not a place, but a call to submit every aspect of our lives to God's kingly rule.
Until God's rule is fully realised, we live in provisional times. We live, for example, in a political
world whose values often fall short of the values of God's kingdom and can even be directly
opposed to them. "Rendering to God the things that are God's" acknowledges that God has
an interest in the human world, including the world of finance and politics, especially when
it concerns itself with moral issues. To be a disciple of Jesus means that all other values,
including our political allegiances, must always be weighed against Jesus' values.

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God. All is gift. We depend on God
at every moment of every day. We must live in such a way that we do not allow money or material
things to supersede our relationship with God and our commitment to God's kingdom. ■

REFLECT

In the 1960s, my aunt was one of a
group of Irish Presentation sisters who
established a new foundation in the
United States. A bishop in Utah wanted to
bring some teaching sisters to his diocese,
and he came to Ireland in search of them.
The Presentation Sisters in Co Tipperary
answered his plea. They opened a parochial
school in Salt Lake City. Utah was a strongly
Mormon state, and most of the pupils were
members of that religion. The sisters did
not see their role as proselytising. They saw
themselves as witnesses who would point
to Jesus by the example of their lives.

It worked. These nuns made a big impact
on all who encountered them. It was easy to
see that they loved teaching and loved their
pupils. They made no distinctions between
Catholic pupils and others.

Several years ago, my aunt, Sr Josephine,
died, and shortly afterwards, the principal
of her school in Salt Lake City received an
email. This is what it said:

"Many years ago, I attended your school for
just one year, after spending three years
in the public school system. That one year
was the most important in my education. I
learned how to read that year, and I learned
self-respect and respect for others. I
learned about God. I am forever grateful
to the nuns and teachers there. I attended
Fifth Grade in 1972. Sr Josephine was my
teacher. I just want to state how grateful I am
to her and how much she meant to me and
how I still hold her in my heart.

"Twenty-four years after I attended your
school, I converted to Catholicism. My
two daughters are Catholic and attending

DO

Speak to somebody about your faith. Explain
why it's important to you.

SAY

"Lord, help me to be an effective
witness to you today and
everyday. Amen."

PRAY

Remember those missionaries who travelled
to every corner of the world to proclaim the
Good News. Thank God for them. Remember
all those who instructed you in the faith. Thank
God for their witness.



LEARN

Being a missionary has nothing to do with
being a priest or religious or with leaving home
to preach the Gospel. The church is missionary
by its very nature, and all of us by virtue of our
baptism are called to be missionaries.
All we have to do is to witness to the love of
God by the way we live our lives.

Catholic school. At your school, a seed was
planted, and I find that the gifts from that
seed are plentiful and richly rewarding..."

My aunt had no idea of the impact she
made on that young pupil, but I am not
surprised. That was the kind of person she
was. Even without explicitly stating it, she
was a missionary. Even without preaching
about the Gospel, she lived the Gospel. In
everything, she radiated love.

This Mission Sunday is a reminder that we
are all called to be missionaries. We don't
have to join the priesthood or religious life
to be missionaries. We don't have to give
up our work, home or family. We don't have
to move to a far distant country. All we have
to do is to witness to our Christian calling
as best we can. Imagine how different our
world would be if everybody lived like that. ■