

# The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

18 October 2020

## First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

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

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.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7**

**(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.**

- 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 Thes 1:1-5

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

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.

## Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 22:15-21

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

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.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. They are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.  
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- |         |           |         |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| belongs | Pharisees | teacher |
| coins   | respect   | test    |
| Emperor | silver    | trick   |
| honest  | taxes     | truth   |

P Z A R X U S W H P E W V Q V Y I  
 O Y F E F X P R N M T Z E E S M E  
 Q O E V U A H V P T E H U M I T B  
 A L V L X P A E I R A P Z G C F A  
 E D H I V E R W R I C H O N E S T  
 Q Q K S R O I E G C H O B E E S T  
 A N K B R B S G M K E K T X E G B  
 J A D T J R E H V M R Q A T P E E  
 Q T F N C L E C K B G T G V A D L  
 D S L B E S S O G E V O R M G F O  
 M P I M H Z D I N M J G W Y K B N  
 V U W W C G X N S F T E A Q Y Y G  
 J F Y M B W Y S Z V F R G H C O S  
 K B N A D C Y P D X T R T E M N W  
 P N X L S H X R N O R U T J G X K  
 F Q L I T C E P S E R D D E I Y O  
 X W H N W Z N X C T E Z Y B R Z D

**S**t Paul of the Cross was born Paolo Francesco Danei in 1694 in the Northern Italian town of Ovada. He came from a wealthy merchant family and at the age of 19 he experienced a conversion to a life of prayer. He came to the conclusion that the Passion of Christ was the greatest sign of God's love and a means by which people can come to a greater union with God. He devoted his life to spreading this message and at the age of 26 he founded the religious order "the Poor of Jesus"; later to become known as "the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ". Passionists live a life of solitude and contemplation, devoting at least three hours a day to prayer. They are easily recognised through the labeled emblem of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, surmounted by a cross, which is usually sewn into their clothing.

Colour in the shapes that contain dots to reveal something that Jesus wants us to show others.

