



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

22 October 2017

Sentence Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

Matthew 22.21

Collect

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory, as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear, until we may look upon you without fear, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the Exodus.

The people are now journeying from Sinai and the giving of the covenant commandments but they hear harsh words from God about their 'stiff necked' attitudes to God. Moses goes to God a third time and pleads for the people who have repented and genuinely desire God to journey with them.

Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your

people, from every people on the face of the earth.’ The LORD said to Moses, ‘I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.’ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The LORD”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But’, he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’ And the LORD continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.

Ex.33. 12-1-23

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99 APBA, 325

This is an enthronement hymn for Israel's king who is to administer God's justice, which is the source of God's strength, in contrast to military might which is always precarious.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

This letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest written document in the New Testament. It was written by Paul during his stay at Corinth in 50 AD. Paul had founded the church at Thessalonica not long before. He had had to leave it hurriedly, and, in his anxiety over his recent converts, he sent Timothy to see how things were going. The report Timothy brought back was largely favourable, hence the warm tone of the opening thanksgiving.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that

he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

1 Thess, 1.1-10

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you.

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew has taken over a story from Mark and set it in a context of plotting and threat against Jesus. The result of these changes is to emphasize that the episode of the tribute money was part of Jesus' conflict with his opponents and a constant tension for the Church and the state ever since.

The Pharisees plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the

emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The same day some Sadducees came to Jesus, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, 'Teacher, Moses said, "If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother." Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. Last of all, the woman herself died. In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.' Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

Mtt 22. 15-33

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week. Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34.1-12 Ps 90.1-6, 13-17

I Thessalonians 2.1-13 Matthew 22. 34-36

Pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember before God: Edna Valentine, Nellie Johnson, James Cunningham, Frank Nelson, Eric Dalton, Edith Pearson, Elsie Casey, Mary Newton, Hazel Dean, Keith Garden, Phyllis Reynolds-Gill, Erina Bedford Standish, Thomas Mitchel Felgate MBE *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week:

October 24 United Nations, inaugurated 1945.

October 28 Simon and Jude, apostles and martyrs. Simon the Zealot perhaps previously belonged to the radical Jewish sect using guerrilla tactics to drive the Romans from Judea. Jude was probably the brother of our Lord (Mk.6.3) and the author of the Letter of Jude (Jude 1.1).

