

OCTOBER 22, 2017
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are a people of faith, love, and hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Tuesday	Jeremiah 29:1-7	Advice to the exiles in Babylon
Wednesday	Daniel 1:3-21	Daniel in the king's court
Thursday	Romans 13:1-7	Duties towards state authorities
Friday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 96	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

We praise you Lord, for you are wise and compassionate. There is no other god. Amen.
(Psalm 96:1-9; Isaiah 45:5-6)

Mealtime Prayer:

All thanks to God who gives us food and blesses all our days. To God who rules from heaven above, we offer heartfelt praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God fill your life with power through the good news of Jesus. May the Lord give you faith, love, and hope each and every day. (1 Thessalonians 1:3)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Great is the Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Name something you are thankful for.
- The Apostle Paul was thankful for the faith, love, and hope of the church of Thessalonica. Give examples of the faith, love, and hope in the church today.
- Isaiah 45 gives praise to the anointed Cyrus, a foreign unbeliever who blesses God's people. How does God use non-Christians to be servants of God's love in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 22:15-22.

Some Bible stories are funnier than others. In this account, the Pharisees join their arch enemies of the Herodians who are aligned with the Roman ruler. Together they engage in conversation with Jesus to trap him by either offending the Jewish people or sounding like a rebel against the Roman forces. Jesus turns this potential trap on its head. The Pharisees are asked by Jesus to show a Roman coin, something the Pharisees are not to have in their possession because it has a graven image of a Roman god on it. In essence, Jesus says, "I gotcha!" Jesus' answer that they are to give the emperor what is his and give to God what is God's changes the conversation. Although the Herodians may not get the point, the Pharisees certainly would have: everything is God's! Reflect on what it means that everything we have is God's. Then offer a prayer of thanksgiving for everything we have and how to use it to the glory of God.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. If children are present, play a game of "Simon Says." Talk about how we copy others. Paul acknowledges that the people imitated the faith of Paul, and others in the church have come to imitate the church of Thessalonica. Identify people who serve you as Christian role models. Find a way to express your thanks for their witness to you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

One of the great traditions of the church is singing hymns of praise to God. This is particularly noted in the words of Psalm 96. Be sure to sing and/or pray the "Hymn of the Week", *Great is the Lord*.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org