

## Twenty-ninth Sunday | Year A

October 22, 2023 (Is 45:1, 4-6 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Matthew 22:15-21)

According to Isaiah, God uses the victorious hands of the Persian King, Cyrus, to liberate the Israelites from exile in Babylon. For the Lord is their God. Let us call on God to hear us.

1/ Let all nations on earth tell the glory and honor of the Lord, for he guides those who trust in him to peace and prosperity. Let us pray that Pope Francis, pastors, and deacons may guide the faithful in verdant pastures and flourishing pastoral ministries. Let us pray.

2/ Writing to the church of the Thessalonians, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy reassure them that they give thanks to God always on their behalf for their work of faith and endurance in hope of the Lord Jesus. For those who struggle in their faith and are wandering aimlessly. We pray that every Christian community remember them in their prayers. Let us pray.

3/ We are called to trust in God. For the victims of war in Israel and Palestine. We pray that God care for the dead and give comfort to their families. Let us pray.

4/ Jesus calls hypocrites the Pharisees and those self-righteous people. While they think they believe in God, they regard every other faithful less than themselves. For those who indulge in hypocrisy or claim to have higher moral standards than others. We pray that they take off their cover of self-righteousness and put on the garment of love and humility. Let us pray.

5/ Jesus asks the Pharisees and the self-righteous people to repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. For our sisters and brothers who have gone from us. We pray that, as they took off their garment of flesh in this world and went to the earth, God receive their souls in heaven. Today we remember [at 4:30 PM] Ruth, Rudolph, Gary and Donnie Fackler, LaRoy Benham, and Alfred Wissman; [at 10:00 AM] James and Virginia Wilkins, LaRoy Benham, and Alfred Wissman. Let us pray.

Oh Lord our God, and Father of all, you guard us under the shadow of your wings and search into the depths of our hearts. Remove the blindness of our hypocrisy that hinders us from truly worshipping you and humbly loving our brothers and sisters, so that we may become united in your glory and honor. We ask this through Christ our Lord.