

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost



“Come...Be a Part of Peace!”

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

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October 18, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "God Is Here"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/5FreZ4LmhWk>

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God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Kyrie



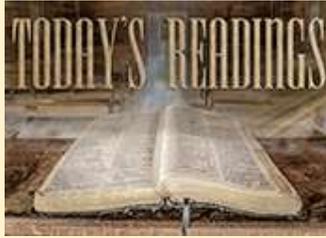
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

[¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

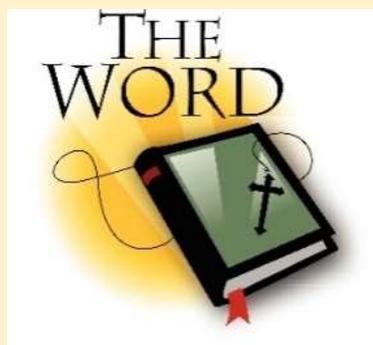
¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.]

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because 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 persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And 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, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For 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, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They 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." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON—Pastor Eric Wester

Matthew 22: 15-22

“It’s a trap!” There are probably plenty of situations where you can call out this warning:

- Reading a book with a plot, leading into to danger
- Watching a film or television episode

One popular version of, “It’s a trap!” comes from the third Star Wars movie, “Revenge of the Sith.” Commanding forces to defeat evil, Admiral Akbar oversees a daring raid to knock out the Death Star. As friendly forces get closer and closer to their objective without much resistance, suddenly the Admiral realizes: “It’s a trap!”

Today’s gospel reading presents the failed attempt by Pharisees and Herodians to trap Jesus on what appears to be a political issue: whether or not it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar.

Together, His critics strategize; convinced it would be easy to catch Jesus up. They figure the answer by Jesus to their question will make Him, on the one hand, either unpopular with the people – by saying yes, pay this new and unwelcomed tax. Or, on the other hand, if Jesus says no, Herodians, who cooperate with the occupying Roman authorities, will immediately report Jesus for sedition and treason. They figure, no matter the answer, they’ll get one up on Jesus who will either lose favor with the public or get in trouble with Roman authorities.

“It’s a trap!”

The verses nearly drip with smugness as these clever critics make their move.

Note false flattery in their opening remarks: "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth . . ." (22:16).

Then, they spring the trap: "Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?"

Now, in this case, Jesus sees through their sarcasm to the malice that lies beneath and brands them hypocrites.

Here's how: Jesus asks for a coin. Certainly, Pharisees dare not carry Roman coins, for they bear the blasphemous image of Tiberius Caesar. The inscription proclaims Caesar divine. Yet, when Jesus asks for a Roman coin, they readily provide it. There, in the sacred surroundings of the temple, Pharisees possess the idolatrous image.

The Pharisees are ready and thinking two moves ahead in this game. If Jesus says that it is lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, he alienates the people who hate the Roman occupation and Caesar.

Though a clever gambit, it's not clever enough. Jesus asks, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" "Caesar's", they answer. Then render to the emperor what is due him, he says, and to God what belongs to God. Checkmate.

The key interpretive issue of this passage rests in the meaning of the statement by Jesus.

The first clause on its own indicates the tax should be paid. With the emperor's image and inscription on the coin, the coin falls under "things that are the emperor's."

On the other hand, the final clause places a question mark on what belongs to whom!

The consensus at the time seems to have been that Jesus managed to wiggle out of the trap (verse 22), but it's not clear anyone immediately figured out what Jesus was getting at.

Jesus wanted to hold up the coin. By highlighting the physical features of the denarius used to pay the tax, Jesus gives us a number of things to think about.

Firstly, the image of the emperor stamped onto the coin's surface, along with the blasphemous inscription with its claim to divinity brings to mind the prohibition against images in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:4): "Make for yourselves no graven image."

Secondly, by pointing out that his opponents possess and display that coin within the Temple grounds (21:23), Jesus seems to raise, not lower, the stakes of the conversation about money, human loyalty and idolatry.

Thirdly, and most importantly from my point of view is this: by Jesus highlighting the physicality of that denarius – the coin stamped out by human hands for human purposes, and the image of Caesar imprinted on it – there's another compelling connection.

Consider those words from the beginning of Genesis about what God said the first time God stamped out a human being: Genesis 1:26 records, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness."

Confronted with the question of human loyalty and the coin bearing the image of the

earthly emperor, it's easy to picture Jesus flipping that coin in his hand a few times, and then tossing it casually, maybe to a needy beggar or a child who would thrill at getting a coin.

In my mind's eye, I see Jesus, eyes rising to meet those in His line of sight and range of His voice. There is an unspoken question hanging in the air: "And you, my friend: Whose image do you bear?"

Whatever we render unto Caesar, or to the retirement fund, or to the offering basket at church, we can treasure this: we belong entirely to God.

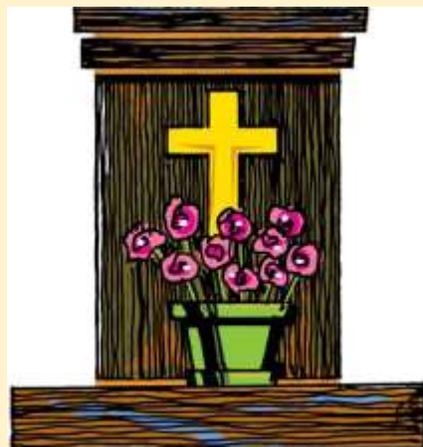
We may divide our budget, but we must never divide our allegiance.

The coin of our earthly and national realm bears the image of dead presidents. The coins and currency include their images and remind us, "In God We Trust."

There's more: each of us bears another image. Our heavenly creator and redeemer said: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness."

You, my friend, bear the image of God.

Amen



Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read “For the Fruit of All Creation”

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/rN37Opk1Od0>

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For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The Apostles' + Creed +

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Be with all candidates running for office and may they treat one another with dignity and a true willingness to be servants of the people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Dona Cormier, Tara, Anne Marie Cole, Rosalie Wessel, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Lloyd Cotner, Sue Whitman, Jo Kruer, Tammy & Greg Olive, Baby William, Kim Cole, Judy Harris, Elmer Wessel, Milton Wilford, Denise Litchfield, be with those whose lives have been disrupted by wild fires, violent storms and community unrest, those dealing with the Covid-19 Dr. David Page, along with the leaders in our government who have contracted it.

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy, be with Graicyn Collins, Cruze Cubbal, Susan Miller this week on their birthday, along with Trey & Cate Martin and Robert & Alexandra Williams on their anniversaries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in your. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call to you, O God and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

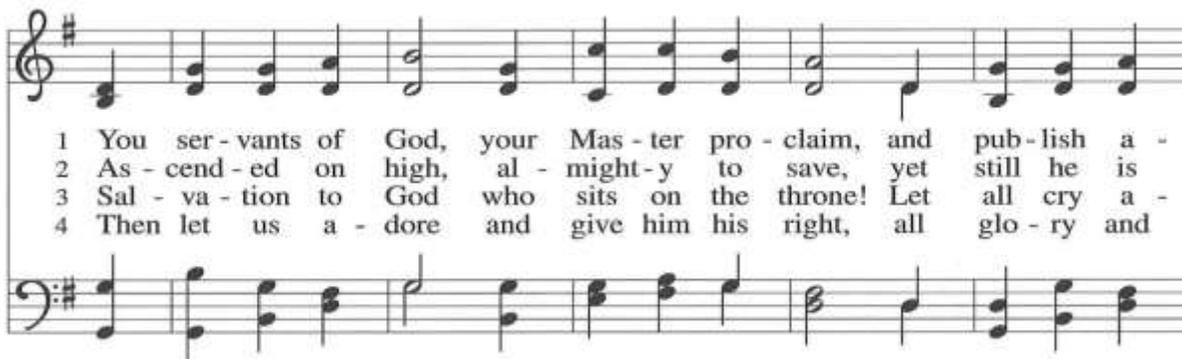
“You Servants of God”

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

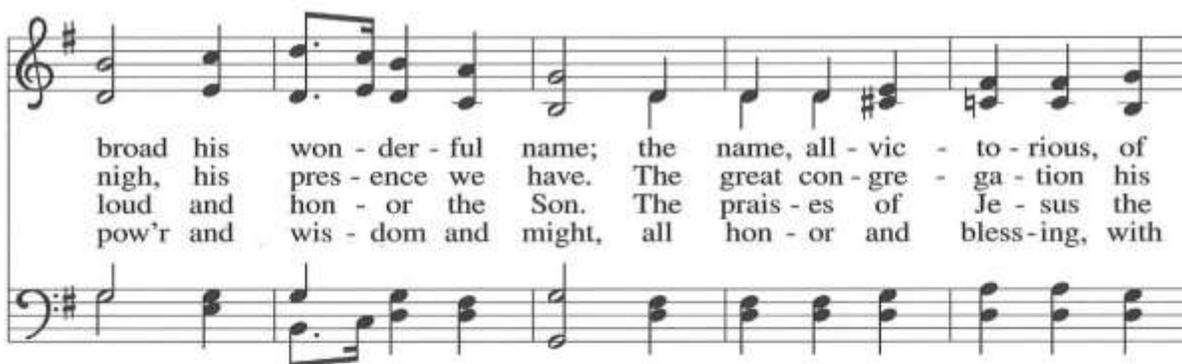
<https://youtu.be/3GH0aLQwhRY>

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You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 45:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday after Pentecost Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

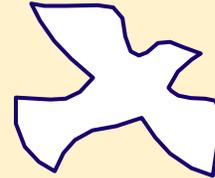
We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Krueer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Bill Mungo Sr./ Lloyd Cotner / Jo Krueer / Lucy Creel / Judy Harris / Pat Harris / Sue Whitman / Ann Marie Cole / Donna Cormier



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)
Andy Shook, US Army, (son of Ricky Shook)
Sgt. Rob Kinnard (Afghanistan)

Components of an Effective Prayer

“A”	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
“C”	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
“T”	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
“S”	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*