

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

22 October 2023

Readings Collects Seasonal Variations

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

Exodus 33.12–23

¹² 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." ¹³ 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.' ¹⁴ He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' ¹⁵ And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ 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.' ¹⁷ 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.' ¹⁸ Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' ²¹ And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² 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; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

Psalm

Psalm 99

- ¹ The Lord is king, let the nations tremble:
 he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake.
- ² The Lord is great in Zion:
 he is high above all nations.
- ³ Let them praise your great and terrible name:
 for holy is the Lord.
- ⁴ The Mighty One is king and loves justice:
 you have established equity,
 you have dealt righteousness and justice in Jacob.
- ⁵ O exalt the Lord our God:
 and bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron among his priests,
 and Samuel among those who call upon his name:
 they called to the Lord and he answered.
- ⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud:
 they kept to his teachings and the law that he gave them.
- ⁸ You answered them, O Lord our God:
 you were a forgiving God to them,
 and pardoned their wrongdoing.
- ⁹ O exalt the Lord our God:
 and bow down towards his holy hill,
 for the Lord our God is holy.

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 1.1–10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel

Matthew 22.15–33

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹ 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.' ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. ²³ The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴ 'Teacher, Moses said, "If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.'" ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² "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.' ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.