

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED  
*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there 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 sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**  
 P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.  
**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
 P. Lift up your hearts.  
**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**  
 P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**R. It is right and just.**

**PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME**

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

P. The mystery of faith.  
**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...  
**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

**LAMB OF GOD**

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
 P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**R. Amen.**  
 P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL**

**OBEDIENCE TO GOD**

Having entered Jerusalem as its messianic King, Jesus is drawn into a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield power. To remove the threat he poses, they need to portray him to the Romans as dangerous and, at the same time, to lessen his authority with the people.

The tax question is a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. If Jesus supports the payment of the unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people; if he forbids payment, he risks being identified with groups rebellious towards Rome and so of appearing as a threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma, it actually goes onto the offensive. By requiring *them* to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as already collaborating with the Romans. They carry around the offensive coinage. He does not.

Then his dual 'Render ...' instruction throws the dilemma back upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

We can find here the beginnings of the later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State. We also have a recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God.

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**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**  
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SERVING GOD THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY. The kingdom of God is already present in our world. It is here that we practise the kingdom values of justice, honesty, love and compassion. It is here that we show our faith in action, work for love and persevere in hope. When we contribute to the well-being of civil society we are promoting the kingdom of God.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 16:6, 8  
**To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

**GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

**GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.**

**COLLECT**

P. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians  
*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Phil 2:15-16

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mt 22:15-21

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
 P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*