

INTRODUCTION: (COMMENTATOR):

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time of you've been with us for a while. We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that in the Holy Spirit we are one table of believers.

Today we hear the enemies of Jesus trying to trap him in a complex question about his nation's laws.

In *our* lives, income taxes are automatically deducted from salaries; we are barely conscious of it. Our service of God, however, is not exacted from us but is freely and consciously given. As we begin, let our hearts be filled with praise to our God who calls us each by name.

(Pause)

Let's begin our prayer in song.

FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Most High to Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him,
and making kings run in his service,
opening doors before him
and leaving the gates unbarred:

For the sake of Jacob, my servant,
of Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by your name,
given you a title, though you knew me not.
I am the Most High, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.

It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun
people may know that there is none besides me.

I am the Most High, and there is no other”.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)

Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
to the church of the Thessalonians
in God our loving Creator and Our Savior Jesus Christ:
grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith
and labor of love
and endurance in hope of our savior Jesus Christ,
before our God and loving Creator,
knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God,
how you were chosen.

For our gospel did not come to you in word alone,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit
and with much conviction.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God

(turn the microphone off)

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went off
and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.
Thus they sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man
and that you teach the way of God
in accordance with the truth.

And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,
for you do not regard a person's status.
Tell us, then, what is your opinion:
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar, or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said,
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin that pays the census tax."
Then they handed him the Roman coin.
He said to them, "Whose image is this, and whose inscription?"
They replied, "Caesar's."
At that he said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ.
R/. Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

HOMILY: (PRESIDER)

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: (COMMENTATOR)

Commentator

Today, we pray in a spirit of ecumenism by standing in solidarity with the vision of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical addressed to the world. Our response will be **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We are called to be a *Church on the move*. May the Holy Spirit *push us and carry us*, into a world hungry for faith. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pope Francis observes that in this pandemic *we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm*. May we see this as an invitation to *step out of ourselves for love of God and our neighbor*. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pope Francis says that we are asked *to be personally willing to be sent, because he himself is Love, love that is always “on mission”, always reaching out in order to give life*. May that grace be given the entire Ecumenical Catholic Communion as we celebrate the richness of this week’s Synod and embrace what is ahead of us. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pope Francis notes that: *Human life is born of the love of God, grows in love and tends towards love*. May God’s mercy heal the sins of war, violence, lies and corruption around the world and restore love to all hearts.

We pray to the Lord **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pope Francis reminds us that: *The poverty of those who die alone, the abandoned, those who have lost their jobs and income, the homeless and those who lack food challenge us*. May we be filled with courage in our mission to help others in God’s name.

We pray to the Lord **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We now invite you to unmute your mike to share your prayers with the community so we can pray with you today.

After some silence, close us with these words...

Commentator: O God of tender mercy, hear our prayers.
Bring comfort to all who are in need
and inspire us to work tirelessly for justice and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen