

## **The First Reading**

### **Exodus 33:12-23**

The First Reading is from Exodus chapter 33.

<sup>12</sup> 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 favor in my sight.’ <sup>13</sup> Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” <sup>14</sup> He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor 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.”

<sup>17</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” <sup>18</sup> Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” <sup>21</sup> And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup> 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; <sup>23</sup> then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 99**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

<sup>4</sup> Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

<sup>7</sup> He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

<sup>9</sup> Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

The Second Reading is from Thessalonians chapter 1.

**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.

<sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> 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 persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For 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. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel of Matthew 22:15-22**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter. Glory to you O Lord.

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

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

## **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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt especially: Bradley, Josie, Bev, Nancy, John, Linda, Dave, Jim, Brad and Jodie, Cassie & Family, Delores, Graham, Bob, Ila, Norman, Evelyn, Darrell, Donna, Beckie, Joy, Pat, Jim and Kim, Kay and Glenn, Vickie, Diane, and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. 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.**

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

**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**