

**Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023**

**The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
- 3) Matthew 22:15-21

FOCUS: Let us build communities of peace and justice.

Christ came to restore our relationship with God and one another: *There is no God besides [him]*. Christians cannot be content to lead prayerful lives in private. We have a right and a responsibility to build communities of peace and justice in our homes and nations.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah reveals to King Cyrus of Persia that the Lord has called him by name so all may know there is no other God. Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians' *work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope*. Jesus tells the Pharisees they should *repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God*.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the fidelity of our God who is Lord of all the nations, we bring our prayers to him today.

- 1) For the Church, may God's Holy Spirit inspire us in building the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those in public office, may the Lord grant them humility and courage in working for the good of their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those living in exile or as refugees, may God provide safe restoration to their homeland and communities according to their desire, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all of us gathered here, may the Lord sanctify us in lives of fidelity to him, and love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died, may they soon be welcomed into the kingdom of God through the mercy of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God our Father, we bring you these prayers today, confident in your love for us. Hear and answer us, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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