

Sunday 18 October 2026

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading - *Isaiah 44.28 - 45.1,4,13a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says to Cyrus of Persia:

You will be my shepherd,

 to carry out my purposes,

 to rebuild Jerusalem,

 and to restore the temple.

I anointed you

 as King of all Persia.

I led you, and strengthened you,

 to suppress all the nations around you.

Every king surrenders to you.

 Every city gate is open to you.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,

 and my chosen people,

I have called you by name,

 and I have given you

 a title of honour,

 even though you do not know me.

I have raised you up in righteousness,

 to rebuild my city

 and to set my exiles free.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *1 Thessalonians 1.1-9*

A reading from the first letter of Paul

 to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy;

 to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

 from God our Father,

 and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always remember you in our prayers,

 giving thanks to God our Father

 for your works of faith and love,

and for the joyful and steadfast trust

 that you have

 in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We knew that God had called you

 when we saw the message of the gospel

 come to you

 not only in words

 but also in the power

 of the Holy Spirit.

You followed our example,

 and the example of our Lord,

 when, in spite of persecution,

 you received the word with joy.

Now, you yourselves

 have become an example

 for all the believers

 in Macedonia and beyond.

Wherever we go, we have no need

 to speak about your faith,

for they already know

 about the welcome you gave us,

and how you turned away from idols

 to serve the true and living God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Matthew 21.45, 22.15-22*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

 according to Matthew.

When the chief priests

 and the Pharisees

 heard Jesus' parables,

they realised

 that Jesus was speaking about them.

So with some of

 Herod's officers,

the Pharisees made a plan

 to trap Jesus

 in what he said.

They sent some of their followers to Jesus,

 to say, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere,

 and that you teach the way of God,

 showing deference to no one.

Tell us, then, what you think.

Is it lawful

 to pay taxes

 to the emperor,

 or not?'

Jesus said, 'You hypocrites.

 Show me the coin

 that is used

 for the tax.'

They showed him the coin,

 and he said to them,

 'Whose head is this?

 And whose title?'

They said, 'The emperor's.'

Jesus said, 'So give to the emperor

 the things

 that are the emperor's.

And give to God

 the things

 that are God's.'

And they had no reply;

 and they left him,

 and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.