

The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

22 October 2023

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

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.

Responsorial 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 Thes 1:1-5

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.

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

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God
the things that are God's.*

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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus first cleverly throws his
questioners on the defensive. *They*
are the ones carrying the coinage,
not him. Then he poses the crucial
question, 'Whose image is it and
whose inscription?' They said to
him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to
them: 'Render to Caesar what is
Caesar's and to God what is
God's.'

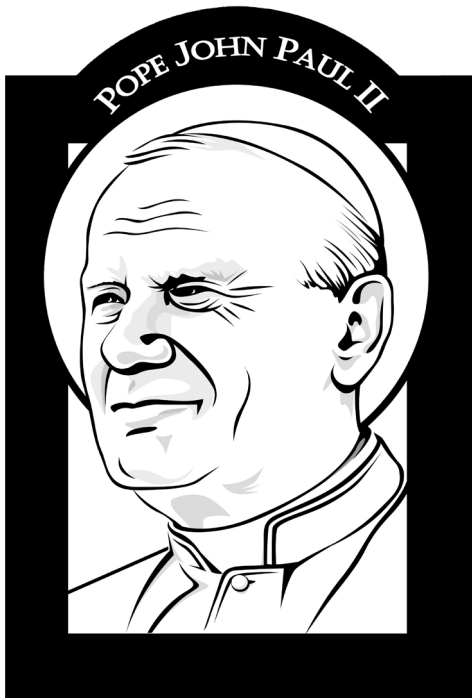
The coin bore the image and
inscription of Caesar. Genesis
teaches us that human beings are
made in the image and likeness of
God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the
political and financial authorities
have their coinage. It is their legal
tender. But they cannot have
human beings. Human beings
belong to Another. They belong to
God.'

We are fortunate to live in a
wonderful democracy. But even a
democracy can violate the dignity
of a human being created in the
image and likeness of God. As
Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic
democracy is possible only in a
state ruled by law, *and on the
basis of a correct conception of the
human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to
thank God for the inscription, 'Child
of God', effectively engraved on our
hearts by baptism.

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Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

belongs	Pharisees	teacher
coins	respect	test
Emperor	silver	trick
honest	taxes	truth

P Z A R X U S W H P E W V Q V Y I
O Y F E F X P R N M T Z E E S M E
Q O E V U A H V P T E H U M I T B
A L V L X P A E I R A P Z G C F A
E D H I V E R W R I C H O N E S T
Q Q K S R O I E G C H O B E E S T
A N K B R B S G M K E K T X E G B
J A D T J R E H V M R Q A T P E E
Q T F N C L E C K B G T G V A D L
D S L B E S S O G E V O R M G F O
M P I M H Z D I N M J G W Y K B N
V U W W C G X N S F T E A Q Y Y G
J F Y M B W Y S Z V F R G H C O S
K B N A D C Y P D X T R T E M N W
P N X L S H X R N O R U T J G X K
F Q L I T C E P S E R D D E I Y O
X W H N W Z N X C T E Z Y B R Z D

Pope Saint John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła in 1920 in the Polish town of Wadowice. Growing up, he was keen on swimming and skiing, and at university he developed an interest in theatre and poetry. After his father's death in 1941, he decided to join the priesthood and studied at the seminary while Poland was under occupation by the Nazis. He was ordained a priest in 1946 and was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of Kraków in 1958, and later took part in Vatican II. Following the sudden death of Pope John Paul I, he was elected Pope in 1978, becoming the first non-Italian pope since 1523. He was the second longest serving pope in modern history and travelled the world extensively, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate. John Paul II is widely credited with helping to bring down Communism in Europe and he made many efforts to improve relations between the church and other faiths including Islam and Judaism.

Colour in the shapes that contain dots to reveal something that Jesus wants us to show others.

