

20th Sunday after Trinity — Sunday 22nd October 2023
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE COLLECT

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides
me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

2nd READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and
peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly
³ remembering before our God and Father your
work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know,

brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, ⁵because 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 people we proved to be among
you for your sake. ⁶And 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, ⁷so that you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word
of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where
your faith in God has become known, so that we
have no need to speak about it. ⁹For 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, ¹⁰and to
wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from
the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath
that is coming.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

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

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has
come from heaven to deliver the world from the
darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open
the eyes of our understanding that we may know
the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.