

18 OCTOBER 2020
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
& MISSION SUNDAY

OPENING HYMN

**Glory and praise to our God;
Who alone gives light to our days;
Many are the blessings he bears
To those who trust in his ways.**

Every moment of every day,
Our God is waiting to save,
Always ready to save the lost,
To answer those who pray.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty, ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to Yours and serve Your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Is 45:1,4-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 95:1,3-5,7-10

Our Response is: Give the Lord glory and power

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/**

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/**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring on offering and enter his courts. **R/**

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the people in fairness. **R/**

SECOND READING: 1 Thes 1:1-5

GOSPEL: Mt 22:15-21

REFLECTION:

The Bible invites us to follow the values of Jesus. Sometimes, these values can come in direct conflict with those in authority in the world. For example, policy decisions concerning abortion, environmental & developmental, helping those on the periphery of society etc. We need to ask ourselves, whom do we serve, God or Caesar?

In the first reading from the book of Isaiah, God uses secular authority, the Persian King Cyrus, to unfold His plan to liberate the Jews from Babylonian captivity. This earthly power is limited and subordinate to God's power. We do not need to be opposed to those plans which follow God's plan. However, if we do find opposition, then it is clear that it's due to human pride, malice, hypocrisy and greed. Am I ready to be sent by the Lord to build God's kingdom in collaboration with people of good will? **Pause**

Psalm 95 and the first reading clearly show us that God and God alone is the source of all power and authority. Everything belongs to God. We are created in His image and likeness. God is ruler over all earthly kings. Like the Psalmist we are invited to proclaim God's sovereignty to all nations. Jesus, in the Gospel, invites us to give God his proper due. Am I giving God His proper due? **Pause**

Jesus is aware of the malice and hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Herodians. Relying on their intellect, they fail to understand the simple truth about the earthly and divine kingdoms. They fail to understand the Gospel values of Goodness and Truth taught by Jesus that help us to live our lives in proper conduct in both kingdoms. When we are guided by the Gospel values, they help build the kingdom of God here on earth. Jesus invites each one of us to give ourselves in total self-giving just as he did for the salvation of the world. Today, on Mission Sunday, can my response truly be "*Here I am Lord, send me*". **Pause**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: God invites us to commit our lives to following in His footsteps and his ways of goodness and truth. Let us confidently bring our prayers before Him.

Our response is: Gracious Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may be open to collaborating with people of good will to build God's Kingdom; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may uphold and follow the Constitution laid down by their respective countries. May they be led by God's Spirit; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are experiencing financial hardships, that opportunities for work and financial assistance may be created to help them; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that on Mission Sunday, we may be open to the Spirit's call as we respond "*Here I am Lord, send me*"; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Sovereign Lord, help us in our pilgrim journey as we consciously strive to build your Kingdom, as we work with people of good will. Hear our prayers and strengthen us in hope as we proclaim your Gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, we pray that, benefiting from participation in Your Word, we may be helped by what You give us in this present age and prepare us for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

**Sing life, sing love, sing Jesus,
Sing out whoever you are. (2)**

Jesus loved life, but for love Jesus died,
Jesus, the truth and the way.
Through life was lost and truth was denied,
Love lives again as we greet the Lord's new day.
(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

*Commission For Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*