

INTRODUCTION

The words of the antiphon of today's response summarize what every believer ought to do, and that is, give priority to God always because it is He who has chosen and empowered us to serve in His kingdom of love. May this Eucharist we celebrate give glory and honour to God.

READINGS

First Reading: Is 45: 1, 4-6

Resp. Psalm: Ps 96: 1 & 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10a, & c

Second Reading: 1Thes 1 1-5b

Gospel: Mt 22: 15-21

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT: We give the Lord glory and power for He listens to the prayers we make with faith. Our response is: **O LORD HEAR US WE PRAY**

1. That the Holy Father, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and the lay faithful may always give God the priority and honour due to Him as our Creator and Lord... we pray...
2. That like King Cyrus, all our political leaders may recognise their identity as God's instruments of equality, justice, unity and peace in the world... we pray...
3. That all of us gathered for this Eucharistic celebration may always respect our religious responsibilities even as we exercise our civic duties bearing witness to Jesus our Lord and Saviour... we pray...
4. That the Synodal process may offer practical directions for leadership and collaboration in the midst of diverse challenges affecting the future of the Church and society... we pray...
5. That the Lord may listen to the prayers we now make with faith; especially for peace in violence affected parts of the world... *(Pause for 7 seconds)*... we pray...

CELEBRANT: Merciful Lord, we thank You for always listening to the prayers we make with faith in Your generosity through Christ your Son who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.