

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 22, 2017



THE LESSON Exodus 33:12-23

¹²Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you've been telling me, 'Lead these people forward.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. Yet you've assured me, 'I know you by name and think highly of you.'" ¹³Now if you do think highly of me, show me your ways so that I may know you and so that you may really approve of me. Remember too that this nation is your people."

¹⁴The LORD replied, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

¹⁵Moses replied, "If you won't go yourself, don't make us leave here. ¹⁶Because how will anyone know that we have your special approval, both I and your people, unless you go with us? Only that distinguishes us, me and your people, from every other people on the earth."

¹⁷The LORD said to Moses, "I'll do exactly what you've asked because you have my special approval, and I know you by name."

¹⁸Moses said, "Please show me your glorious presence."

¹⁹The LORD said, "I'll make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I'll proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD.' I will be kind to whom-ever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to whomever I wish to be compassionate. ²⁰But," the LORD said, "you can't see my face because no one can see me and live." ²¹The LORD said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. ²²As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. ²³Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 99

¹The LORD rules—the nations shake! He sits enthroned on the winged heavenly creatures—the earth quakes!

²The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

³Let them thank your great and awesome name. He is holy!

⁴Strong king who loves justice, you are the one who established what is fair. You worked justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Magnify the LORD, our God! Bow low at his footstool! He is holy!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel too among those who called on his name. They cried out to the LORD, and he himself answered them—⁷he spoke to them from a pillar of cloud. They kept the laws and the rules God gave to them.

⁸LORD our God, you answered them. To them you were a God who forgives but also the one who avenged their wrong deeds.

⁹Magnify the LORD our God! Bow low at his holy mountain because the LORD our God is holy!

THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to all of you.

²We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. ³This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. ⁴Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. ⁵We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You

know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. ⁷As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to mention it. ⁹People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, ¹⁰and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. ¹⁷So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰"Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked.

²¹"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." ²²When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

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