



Liturgy Cycle A

Twenty-Ninth Sunday Of The Year God And Caesar

Introduction

Many times as Christians we are faced with difficult decisions. But we have been given an inner voice to guide us, namely, the voice of conscience. How well do we listen to this voice? For instance, am I at peace with my conscience right now?

First reading (Isaiah 45: 1.4-6)

The return of the people from exile under king Cyrus is seen not merely as a sign of God's love for his people but of his lordship over all people.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

This contains the opening lines from Paul's first letter to the community of Christians he founded at Thessalonica. His concern for them shines through.

Gospel (Matthew 22:15-21)

In an effort to trap Jesus into saying something incriminating, his enemies ask him whether or not it is right for a Jew to pay taxes to Caesar.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may not be afraid to stand up and to be counted in a world that often ignores and sometimes laughs at the values of Christ.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the leaders of the Church: that they may not be afraid to speak out and so many provide a courageous voice for truth, justice, and peace in the world. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For the leaders of our country: that God may fill them with a spirit of wisdom and integrity, so that they may always act in accordance with his will. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may place loyalty to truth, to right, and to God, before loyalty to friends, to party, or to country. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Eichmann was responsible for the deaths of millions of Jews in Hitler's concentration camps. Yet when he was brought to trial, he absolved himself from all personal responsibility by claiming that he was merely carrying out orders. But he was deceiving himself.

We are all responsible for what we do, even though we may try to hide behind others.

Eichmann has legions of followers today. Millions sell their souls, if not to an individual, then to a party, or company, or institution. Yet, if in the course of so-called duty, people lose themselves and their own souls, whatever they do or achieve will be worthless.

**Would that every Christian could say what Thomas more said:
'I die the king's good servant, but God's first.'**