

Proper 24A

READING SCRIPTURE TO SURVIVE

meets via Zoom, Thursday, Oct. 15th, 3 – 4 PM

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalms 99

OR Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalms 96:1-9, (10-13)

AND

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 • Matthew 22:15-22

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Which one or two sentences in these readings best describe how you are doing this week? [*Optional:* Which one or two sentences best describe how *others* are doing? which “others”?]
2. “Every time we think of you, we thank God for you.” 1 Thess. 1:5 Who says this about you? About whom do you feel this way?
3. What is your response to the idea that God makes BOTH “weal and woe” (Isa 45:7)?
4. How do you sort out the differences between “paying taxes” to God and paying them to Caesar?
5. What in these lessons helps you to meet the challenges of this week? [stress? fear? uncertainty? division? sadness? longing?]
6. To what do you feel called this week?
7. What is your prayer for now?

Isaiah 45:1-7 Common English Bible

The Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom I have grasped by the strong hand,
to conquer nations before him,
disarming kings, and opening doors
before him, **so no gates will be shut:**
2 I myself will go before you,
and I will level mountains.
I will shatter bronze doors;
I will cut through iron bars.
3 I will give you hidden treasures of secret
riches, so you will know that I am the Lord,
the God of Israel, **who calls you by name.**
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob and
Israel my chosen,

I called you by name.
I gave you an honored title,
though you didn't know me.
5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no God.
I strengthen you—
though you don't know me—
6 so all will know, from the rising of the sun to
its setting, that there is nothing apart from
me. I am the Lord; there's no other.
7 **I form light and create darkness,**
make prosperity and create doom;
I am the Lord, who does all these things.

PSALM 96:1-9 Saint Helena Psalter

O sing to God a new song;
sing to God, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord, bless God's holy Name;
proclaim the good news of salvation
from day to day.

3 Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's wonders among all peoples.

4 For God is great, and greatly to be
praised; more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for the gods of the nations, they are but
idols, but it is God who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of
God's presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of God's
sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to God, you families of the
peoples, ascribe to God, honor and power.

8 Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name;
bring offerings, and come into God's courts.

9 Worship the Most High in the beauty of
holiness, splendor;
let the whole earth tremble before God

I Thessalonians 1:1-10 The Message

1 I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace! 2-5 Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night, you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

5-6 You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

7-10 Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

MATEO 22:15-22 La Biblia de las Américas

¹⁵ Entonces se fueron los fariseos y deliberaron entre sí cómo atraparle, sorprendiéndole en *alguna* palabra. ¹⁶ Y le enviaron* sus discípulos junto con los herodianos, diciendo: Maestro, sabemos que eres veraz y que enseñas el camino de Dios con verdad, y no buscas el favor de nadie, porque eres imparcial. ¹⁷ Dinos, pues, qué te parece: ¿Es lícito pagar impuesto al César, o no? ¹⁸ Pero Jesús, conociendo su malicia, dijo: ¿Por qué me ponéis a prueba, hipócritas? ¹⁹ Mostradme la moneda que se usa para pagar ese impuesto. Y le trajeron un denario. ²⁰ Y Él les dijo*: ¿De quién es esta imagen y esta inscripción? ²¹ Ellos le dijeron*: Del César. Entonces Él les dijo*: Pues dad al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios. ²² Al oír esto, se maravillaron; y dejándole, se fueron.