

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 18 October 2020



“Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.”

Something to Think About

What are your responsibilities? What are your obligations? Maybe you have chores to do at home. Maybe you have a job to do in your classroom at school. Maybe one of your responsibilities is to practice a musical instrument or to train for a sporting team. In today's story Jesus reminds us that one of our responsibilities is to have a special friendship with God and with other people.

The Story

In today's story, the religious leaders are trying to trick Jesus into saying something that would make him unpopular. They ask Jesus whether the people should pay taxes to the Emperor, as the law told them to. If Jesus answered 'No', he would have been reported for treason and probably arrested right away. If he were to answer 'Yes' then he would have been criticised by the people who believed that God was their only king and that paying taxes to an earthly king was like insulting God. Jesus demands a coin and asks whose image is engraved on it. In those days the coins contained the image of the king and were considered to be his property. Jesus says, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.' We live in the world and have responsibilities in the world. We also live in relationship with God and that brings responsibility too.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are. Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said,

"Why are you trying to test me? You show-offs!
Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes."

They brought him a silver coin, and he asked,

"Whose picture and name are on it?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

Then Jesus told them,

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him
and give God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[How Can We Praise God?](#)



Group Discussion

Invite each person to talk about their relationship with God.

How much time do you give to God? How much time do you give to prayer, to reading the bible, to reading stories about saints and other special people?

Are you involved in your parish? Is there some way you could be more involved?

How much time do you give to helping others?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader: We pray for the leaders of our Church. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for peace and unity. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for those who have no-one to care for them. Lord, hear us.

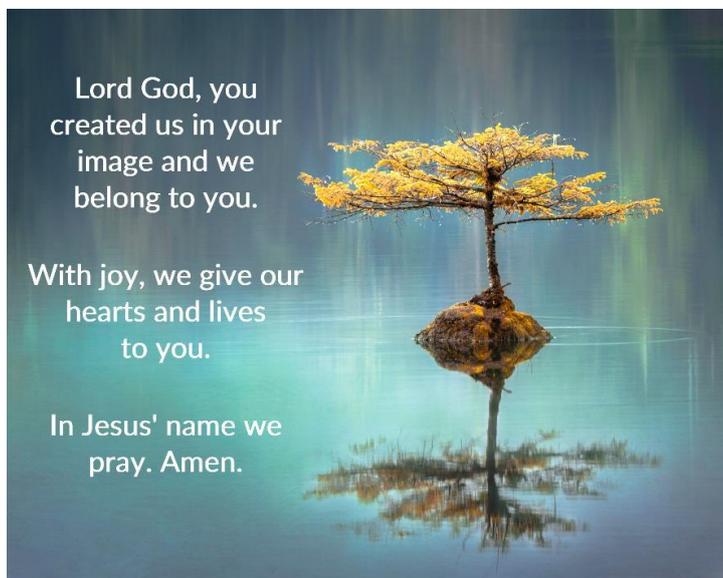
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the courage to do what is right. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.



Prayer

Say this prayer together during the week.

Group Activity

You will need: paper, pens, pencils, craft supplies.

The trick question didn't work on Jesus. Everyone was amazed at Jesus' wisdom in answering rightly. Sometimes there are questions we can't answer. Sometimes an answer is too difficult for us to understand. Maybe we think the wrong answer is the right one. Sometimes, there seems to be no right answer. When we are faced with those tough questions, we just need to remember one thing; Jesus always knows the answer.

Ask each person in the group to think of a tough question they would like to know the answer to.

Then write a letter to Jesus asking Him that tough question, praying for the wisdom to show you the answer.





USING OUR MONEY TO DO GOOD



If you had some money...

What would you like to buy?

What would you get for your mum or dad?

How could you help those who have no money?