

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1–7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
- ² “I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by
your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know
me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know
me,
- ⁶ that people may know, from the rising
of the sun
and from the west, that there is none
besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create
calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these
things.”

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

- ¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
- ²We give thanks to God always for all
of you, constantly mentioning you in our
prayers, ³remembering before our God
and Father your work of faith and labor of

love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Whose likeness and



inscription is this?

Matthew 22:20



About the Cover: The Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus, but Jesus undoes their game. Though all things are certainly God’s, Jesus shows that paying taxes has its place under God-given government but also that we ought to render ourselves to the Lord. God’s likeness is on us as we were made in His image, and our whole lives belong to Him. He has purchased and won us by His own precious blood.