

Order of Service for Sunday October 18, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR

S. Kay Young, Homilist

A Greeting

Today's Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading -- Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
- ✦ **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 99

- 1 The LORD is King; let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.



6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One

Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

- ✦ Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
- ✦ **Thanks be to God**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

- ✦ This is the Gospel of the Lord
- ✦ **Thanks be to God**

Sermon – "Render to God" – S. Kay Young –



Have you ever played who's got your nose with a baby? It works because until the age of 2 or so, the child doesn't realize that they are separate beings. They just can't. And as they learn this they get frustrated with your testing.

So it is with today's vignette. The Pharisees were powerful men in the Jewish hierarchy. They considered Jesus and his followers upstarts. Herodians followed the Roman rule. Strange friends! They send a minion to ask a question to Jesus. As Admiral Akbar says in Star Wars...IT'S A TRAP.

"Show me the coin used for this tax." Roman taxes had to be paid with Roman coin. It had a graven image of "Tiberius Caesar, August Son of the Divine Augustus" on one side and "Pontifex Maximus" (high priest) on the other. It was profane to even carry such a coin in the Temple.

He did not ask the Pharisaic disciple "whose image is manifest in you? Every Jew knew that they were made in the image of God. And every Jew knew that their every day was to begin with The Shema. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." In 13 Exodus, we hear that God's word is to be "as a sign on your hand and a memorial between your eyes that the law of the Lord be in your mouth."

They were amazed. They left.

What's in your wallet? What do you hold dear? What is solid to you? What is so true, so close to you that you need to be reminded of what's real?

So much divides us these days...

The danger of this plague, Politics, Fires. Storms, Our Jobs

But we must realize that these do not have our hearts. Just as Uncle Ken didn't have our nose. We belong to God, and the rest is backdrop. **Amen**

Prayers of the People: The Legacy of Leadership: A Gift for Generations to Come

Give us, O God, leaders whose hearts are large enough to match the breadth of our own souls and give us souls strong enough to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

In seeking a leader, let us seek more than development of ourselves— though development we hope for, more than security for our own land— though security we need, more than satisfaction for our wants— though many things we desire.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

Give us the hearts to choose the leader who will work with other leaders to bring safety to the whole world.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer



Give us leaders who lead this nation to virtue without seeking to impose our kind of virtue on the virtue of others.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

Give us a government that provides for the advancement of this country without taking resources from others to achieve it.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

Give us insight enough ourselves to choose as leaders those who can tell strength from power, growth from greed, leadership from dominancy, and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

We trust you, Great God, to open our hearts to learn from those to whom you speak in different tongues and to respect the life and words of those to whom you entrusted the good of other parts of this globe.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

We beg you, Great God, give us the vision as a people, to know where global leadership truly lies, to pursue it diligently, to require it to protect human rights for everyone everywhere.

- ✦ Lord in your mercy
- ✦ Hear our Prayer

We ask these things, Great God, with minds open to your work and hearts that trust in your eternal care.

Amen

"A Prayer for Leadership" by Joan Chittister

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for St. Martin's

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, **Amen.**

Blessings and Dismissal

