

**READINGS AND REFLECTION
FOR THE 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<http://cms.usccb.org/bible/readings/092720.cfm>

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 45: 1, 4-6

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him and making kings run in his service,
opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred:

For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by your name,
giving you a title, though you knew me not.

I am the LORD and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.

It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun
people may know that there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, there is no other.



The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 95: 1, 3-5, 7-10

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOUR.

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,
but the LORD made the heavens.
GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOUR.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.
GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOUR.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations: The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.
GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOUR.

A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS 1:1-5

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 give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind
your work of faith, labour of love and
endurance
in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ,
before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God,
how you were chosen.



Church of St Paul, Thessalonika

For our gospel did not come to you
in word alone,
but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

Shine like lights in the world
as you hold on to the word of life. Phil 2:15-16

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 22: 15-21

The Pharisees went off
and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.
They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man
and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.
And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,
for you do not regard a person's status.
Tell us, then, what is your opinion:
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said,
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Then they handed him the Roman coin.
He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"
They replied, "Caesar's."

At that he said to them,
"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION

Google Social Justice Statement Aust. Bishops 2020 **MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY**

Key ideas from Part B of **THE GREAT PROJECT OF COMMUNITY INTEGRATION**

Unsung heroes – often family, mostly women carers – bear the failure of provisions for mental health. Needs and emotional and financial stress take their toll on carers' companionship and service.

The two most vulnerable groups who fall through the system are homeless people and the imprisoned. Mental illness, poverty, unaffordable housing and fear of harm are both causes and consequences of homelessness. The system's failure is reflected in the interplay between poor mental health and suicide, homelessness, shelters, boarding houses and imprisonment. **Some illnesses may be addressed medically. However a holistic approach is often needed.**

RECOMMENDATIONS: We need a properly functioning system:

- A significant increase in funding with independent oversight and public accountability,
- Coordinated person-centred care from early intervention to acute care and comprehensive aftercare services,
- Improved and prioritised services for people with serious, complex, enduring conditions,
- Improved face-to-face services for rural and remote, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, for people with diverse cultural and language backgrounds, and for homeless and imprisoned persons,
- Improved professional support to carers.

We do not believe that mental ill-health is caused by a moral failure nor relates to character. Psychiatric disorders and psychological distress are not signs of a lack of faith or a weak will. Mental distress calls for us to respond as part of our Christian life!

"Today we also have to say "thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. . .



I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!"

Pope Francis