

## The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

### Collect

Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **First Lesson: Malachi 3:6-12**

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

*People:*            Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 96:1-9

- 1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
**sing to the Lord, all the earth!**
- 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; \*  
**tell of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, \*  
**his marvelous works among all the peoples!**
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; \*  
**he is to be feared above all gods.**
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, \*  
**but the Lord made the heavens.**
- 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; \*  
**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, \*  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!**
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; \*  
**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; \*  
**tremble before him, all the earth!**

*We say together:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

## 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 give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 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 loved by God, that he has chosen you, because 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. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For 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. For 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, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They 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.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to You, Lord Christ.