

Give to God
the things
that are God's

MATTHEW 22:21

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. **If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.**

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter: *Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise. The Creator of all things has given us life.

We are amazed by the wonders around us. We feel God's presence as we sing together.

We are summoned by One who is just and merciful. The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.

How amazing that God chooses us as messengers. We know God is with us as we work for justice.

As we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and the risen Christ.

We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; ready to commune with one another and with the living God.

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

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.

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Almighty God, just and righteous beyond all our prejudices, valuing all people without partiality, allow us to sense your presence within and among us that we may know we are your people. Call us by name and let your favor rest upon us, that we may have no need to feel superior or seek fame and fortune over others but may rather extend your grace to all we meet, imitating Christ and extoling you in all our words and deeds; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 96:1-13

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;

Let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

Before the Lord, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“Serving God for 175 Years”

Rev. W. T. Gerhard

Trinity’s Pastor 1867, 1868-70

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. We now dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to every people on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Joan Cash** in honor of Pastor Chris for his dedicated ministry to Trinity Church.

The Worship Aids and Baptismal Font Flowers are given by Trinity U.C.C. in gratitude for Christine's ministry as our organist.

Happy Birthday

Today – Elizabeth Rohrer Monday – Megan Minder
Tuesday – Erika Richards Wednesday – Kelly Schuessler
Friday – Noreen Trostle
Saturday – Shirley Brown, JoAnn Mowrer, Ken Zimmerman,
William Lee Davis

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector Rev. Sue Bowman
Money Counters Bud & Kathy McCarty, Scott Owens, Jeff Hackenberger
Altar Guild Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy
Building Trustee Dave Connor
Koinonia Paula Dennes
Ministries **Card Prayer Shawl** (Betty Tyndall)
 Called to Care Sally Rodenberger
 Visitation Denise Pfeiffer

Attendance for Sun., October 15 7:45–19 10:30–74 **TOTAL – 93**
Christian Education 24

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Today 4:00 PM – Brass Concert
Monday 7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 Bells
Thursday 6:00 PM – Cub Scouts
Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday 10:00 AM - Koinonia
 10:30 AM – Eucharist
 12:30 PM – Anniversary Luncheon at Blue Collar

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman	Ron Becker	Scott & Jane Owens
Sally Rodenberger	Jack Keller	Dorothy Fasnacht
Don & Pat Miller	Nancy Patton	Dr. Janet Harriger
The Lehman family	Joann Peck	Harry Himelwright
Donna Wolf & Family	Shelly Family	Mary Lou Shaab
Stan & Pat Seachrist	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Hank Fox	Charles & Betty Booraem
Betty Tyndall and family	Mary Witmer	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Erika Otthofer	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman	Dave Trostle	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Joann & Dawn Garvin	John Shelsky	Dr. Blaine Connor

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Rev. Phyllis Baum (former member of Trinity)
The family of Robert Long (cousin of Betty Fogle)
The family of James Michaud (Sevi Keares' teacher)
The family of Judy Barr (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Bob Morris (father of Rev. Sandy Morris)
Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)
Donna Esbenshade (wife of Rev. Jack Esbenshade)
The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)
Dr. Phil Bartholomew (friend of Pastor Rankin)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Andrea Paulukow (daughter of John & Sarah Paulukow)
Richard Paulukow (relative of John & Sarah Paulukow)
Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz)
Cindy Commero Cook and family (friend of Sarah Paulukow)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)
Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),
Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

THE OCTOBER PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTINE OETAMA: This Sunday is Christine's final Sunday as our organist. There will be a special reception after the 10:30 service in Isenberg Hall.

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

"I PROMISE" FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2024. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 5: We will be remembering Trinity members and friends of our congregation who have died since November 6, 2022. If you have a name of a family member or friend that you would like to include in the service, please submit to the church office the name, date of death, and your relationship to the person. **The deadline is October 30.**

TRINITY T-SHIRTS: The Anniversary Committee is working with our own Mitch Gibson (from Elizabethtown Sporting Goods) to celebrate our 175th anniversary with Trinity t-shirts. We have already placed one order, but you can still order shirts on the form across from the church office.



**175th Anniversary Service/Luncheon at Blue Collar
October 29**

**Join us for a special koinonia at 9:30 a.m. (no Sunday School)
Service is 10:30 a.m. and luncheon at 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Guest Preacher**

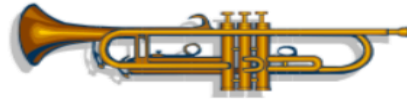
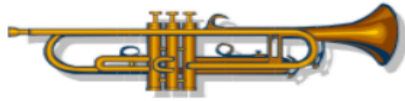
TRINITY PRAYER BOOK: In the spring, participants in the Adult Sunday School Class were sharing prayers that were meaningful to their family. Anne Rankin thought it would be good to compile these prayers and create a Trinity prayer book as part of our 175th anniversary. You can submit prayers to Pastor Chris or Anne. **Deadline has been extended until October 23!**

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: November 26. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST: The monthly breakfast will be held at the Family Fare Restaurant on November 11 at 8:00 a.m. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. This is open to the men of Trinity! You can always invite a friend to join you for breakfast!

PRAYER SHAWL: Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, November 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.



QuintEssentially Brass

**Sun., Oct. 22, 2023
Concert 4:00 PM**

Trinity UCC

2340 State St.
East Petersburg, PA
(717) 569-1632

www.TrinityEastPete.org

Public Welcome
*Freewill Offering Benefits
SWAN 4 Kids
And
Trinity's Ministry of Music*



Also join us for:

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 22nd 7:00 PM

Christmas Concert
Dec. 3rd 6:00 PM
Followed By Desserts



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Greeter /Ushers Needed



If you would like to volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We recently had some vacancies as ushers, so we are in need of help!!! We are looking for a greeter coordinator that will recruit new people to serve and create a schedule. Contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!



PEANUT FELLOWSHIP

We need help. We start at 7:00 AM & end at 2:00 PM.
Anytime you can help would be greatly appreciated. Great fellowship and potluck lunch. Peanuts will be \$6.00 per lb. Please pay by cash or check. You can place your orders at church or call Pat Seachrist at 717-392-1427.

Christmas orders must be placed by November 1st.
Schedule: Nov. 14, 28, and Dec. 5.
Hope to see you there!

Sue Husted, Pat Seachrist, & Shelley Wagner

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on November 12 after the 10:30 a.m. service. The kitchen team will provide a luncheon before the meeting. The agenda will include the presentation and adoption of the 2024 budget and election of lay leaders. **The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office!** Look for more information in the November Parish Post.



DATES

Thursday, November 16-1:30 PM

Friday, December 15-7:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS AT



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

[Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa](#) at Nawakwa - October 22, 2023

[Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald](#) at Kirchenwald - October 29, 2023

[Campfire Worship](#) at The Wittel Farm - October 29, 2023

[Annual Quilt Auction](#) at Nawakwa - November 5, 2023

[Women's Craft Retreat](#) at Nawakwa - November 10 - 12, 2023

[Advent Day Apart](#) at The Wittel Farm - December 9, 2023

[Advent/Christmas in the Barn](#) at The Wittel Farm - December 17, 2023

[Winter Youth Retreat](#) at Kirchenwald - January 5 - 7, 2024

Parish Resource Center



ADDRESS
2160 Lincoln Hwy
East, #18
(See below for various
routes)



PHONE
(717) 299-1113



EMAIL
info@parishresour
cecenter.org



Succession Planning

November 9th, 7-8:30pm

Led By
Kristen Krista
Major Gifts Director

ZOOM ONLY



FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped
 to subdue nations before him
 and strip kings of their robes,
 to open doors before him—
 and the gates shall not be closed:
²I will go before you
 and level the mountains,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the
 sun
 and from the west, that there is no one
 besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the LORD do all these things.

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

SECOND READING: 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.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and
 mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remem-
 bering 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
 and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen
 you, ⁵because 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. ⁶And you became imita-
 tors of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecu-
 tion you received the word with joy inspired by
 the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example
 to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
⁸For 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. ⁹For 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 liv-
 ing and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from
 heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus,
 who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus]
 in what he said. ¹⁶So 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 defer-
 ence to no one; for you do not regard people with
 partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it law-
 ful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But
 Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you
 putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me
 the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him
 a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head
 is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The
 emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give there-
 fore to the emperor the things that are the em-
 peror’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and
 they left him and went away.