



As - crite to the LORD hon - or and power.

Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> a new song;

sing to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from <sup>1</sup> day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- <sup>1</sup> mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- <sup>1</sup> mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised,  
more to be feared <sup>1</sup> than all gods. R**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they <sup>1</sup> are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have <sup>1</sup> made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are <sup>1</sup> in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your <sup>1</sup> sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families <sup>1</sup> of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- <sup>1</sup> or and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the <sup>1</sup> holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts <sup>1</sup> of the LORD. R**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- <sup>1</sup> ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all the earth.

[<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The <sup>1</sup> LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the <sup>1</sup> earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that <sup>1</sup> is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy at your com- <sup>1</sup> ing, O LORD,  
for you come to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peoples <sup>1</sup> with your truth.] **R**

*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.*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians  
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all  
of you and mention you in our prayers,  
constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our  
God and Father your work of faith and  
labor of love and steadfastness of hope  
in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know,  
brothers and sisters beloved by God,  
that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us  
and of the Lord, for in spite of perse-  
cution you received the word with joy  
inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you  
became an example to all the believers  
in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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,  
<sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven,  
whom he raised from the dead—Jesus,  
who rescues us from the wrath that is  
coming.

*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.*

The Pharisees went and plotted to en-  
trap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>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 par-  
tiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is  
it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or  
not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice,  
said, "Why are you putting me to the

test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin  
used for the tax." And they brought  
him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them,  
"Whose head is this, and whose title?"  
<sup>21</sup>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." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this,  
they were amazed; and they left him  
and went away.