

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Lectionary 29, Year A

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### Semicontinuous First Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

*Moses successfully interceded with God to accompany Israel to the promised land after their sin with the golden calf. In response to a request to display the divine glory, God recites a sentence that appears frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures: "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Moses is not allowed to see God's face, but only God's back.*

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, please 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 bring 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 also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]** *Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,  
all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the  
Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to  
day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations and  
God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be  
praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but  
idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your  
presence; power and splendor are in your  
sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the  
peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy**

**name; bring offerings and enter the courts of  
the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is  
king! The one who made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be  
glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let  
the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout  
for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come  
to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

## **Second Reading: 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.*

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 from 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 they 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 coming wrath.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel: 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.*

Then 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 Caesar 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, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar'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

**Praise to you oh Christ**