

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
18th October 2026

Sentence: Matthew 22.21

Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:
grant that your Church throughout the world
may persevere with steadfast faith
in proclaiming the cross to be the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 45.1-7

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

¹ 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: ² I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³ I 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. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so 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. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.
Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96.1-13

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
² Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all peoples.
⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
⁶ Majesty and glory are before him:
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:
render to the Lord glory and might.
⁸ Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:
bring offerings and come into his courts.
⁹ O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
¹⁰ Say among the nations that the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm
that it can never be moved;
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.
¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
¹² Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood
shout with joy before the Lord;
¹³ For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ 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 people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2.15-16

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it to the word of life.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22.15-33

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ ²¹ 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.’ ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. ²³ The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴ ‘Teacher, Moses said, “If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.” ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.’ ²⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.’ ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.