

READINGS FOR October 22, 2017 20th Sunday after Pentecost

End each reading with: The Word of the Lord or The Word of God, word of life.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus 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.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, 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 ³remembering 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 imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution 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 living 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

¹⁵Then 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 deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful 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 therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Prayers of Intercession for October 22, 2017

Pastor: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Leader: Trusting in God, we pray for the church, especially St. John Lutheran of Lake City, St. Mary's Catholic Church of Lake Leelanau and St. Philip Meri Catholic Church of Empire. Fill all worshipers with your Holy Spirit. Grant them generous hearts to share God's splendor revealed to them in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our council, ministry committees, call committee, and all who guide this congregation's ministry. We ask you to prepare a candidate to come to Immanuel as our shepherd and lead us in your work.

Lord in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for creation: for the power of sun, wind, and water, for the riches buried in rock and soil, for the magnificence of life in forms too many to number. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the nations: for leaders of governments, for fair commerce between nations, for treasurers, boards of directors, and all who justly distribute monetary resources. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: Trusting in God's healing power, we pray for this congregation: for the unemployed and overworked, for all who are burdened by debt, for the sick and those in particular need, especially Bishop Craig Satterlee, Rev. Fred Overdier, Mike Erdman, Kathy Crouse, Don Boersma, Sandy Altemann, Ken Nash, Julius Nelson, Laura Regas, Mickey Viox (VEE-ox), Lindsay LePow, Sara Collins, Alana Kiple, Dave Regner, Rodney Wailes, Jack Gossett, Jan Sims, Don Kiessel, Nick Popovici (pa-po-vitch), Judy Aebig (A-big), Richard Dale, Steve Stroh, Paul Feickert and our shut-ins, Helen Bahle and Dorothy Stanow. Lord in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the poor and outcast, for those who cannot afford food, medicine, clothing, and shelter, for the communities and agencies who serve the needy and advocate on their behalf. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: Make us free in your presence to raise to you our individual petitions that we share aloud, or in the silence of our hearts . . . *pause* . . . Lord in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Leader: We give thanks for the saints of every time and place. By your Spirit, grant us sure confidence in the everlasting glory you promise. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.