

READINGS FOR October 29, 2017 21st Sunday after Pentecost

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

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Prayers of Intercession for October 29, 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: Holy God, grant courage to your church. We pray especially for Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lansing, the New Jersey Synod, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Cedar. In all things and among all people of faith, prosper our Lord's call to love and serve in strength and humility. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Holy Creator, protect this world so lovingly made. Align our stewardship with yours so that plants offer shelter and nourishment, water sources sustain life, habitats thrive, and all creation flourishes as you intend. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Sovereign God, bring justice to the nations. Turn enemies from vengeance and warfare, direct leaders in fair and honest governance, and equip citizens to seek the needs of their neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Holy Provider, you care for all your children. Heal those in need: the sick and their caregivers, 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,), victims of family strife, and any who grieve this day. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Gracious God, you bless this congregation and community. Reveal your servant-love through our ministries, that our work on behalf of our neighbors bears fruit that endures. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

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* . . . Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We give you thanks, Holy One, for those who served you in this earthly life. Renew our hope until that day when all are nourished by your tree of life. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

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.