Readings October 18, 2026

21st Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

[1] Thus says the Lord to Cyrus, the Lord's anointed,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip rulers of their robes,
to open doors before Cyrus—
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.

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

[1] Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
[2] Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
[3] Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4] For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R
[5] As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
[6] Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
[7] Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
[8] Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R
[9] Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
[[10] 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 peo- | ples with equity."
[11] 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.
[12] Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.
[13] You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. R]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[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 labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that God 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 persons 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 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 God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 16 So they
sent their disciples to Jesus, 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 Jesus 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.