WE WELCOME all who gather with us around the Altar and Pulpit to hear the Word of God.
IF YOU ARE VISITING this morning, we are happy that you could join us today. *Please sign our guest book in the narthex.*
IF YOU DESIRE TO COMMUNE, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine and are members in good standing of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
YOUNG CHILDREN are always welcome in our service. Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me…"* Activity bags are available in the narthex.
NEED ASSISTANCE with anything? Please speak to the pastor or the usher.
RESTROOMS are available in the back of the church or in the education wing.

We pray that you feel welcome in our congregation, that you are blessed by the service, and that you will come again.

WE ARE RECREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD BY THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted *"to entangle Him in His talk"* by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should *"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"* (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man—who is made in the image of God—must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the Image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the Cross. And from His Cross, as the Lord's anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations *"from the rising of the sun and from the west"* (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus *"to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings"* (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, *"in power and in the Holy Spirit"* (1 Thess. 1:4), foreigners from all over the world are *"turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"* (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

The Family Altar

❶**Verse of the Week** — ***John 8:31b-32*** *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

❷**Hymn of the Week** — *LSB #656 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

❸**Collect of the Week** — *Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

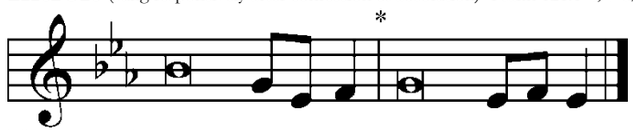
❹**Daily Bible Readings** — ***M:*** *Deut. 28:1-22; Matt. 18:1-20* ***T:*** *Deut. 29:1-29; Matt. 18:21-35* ***W:*** *Deut. 30:1-20; Matt. 19:1-15* ***Th:*** *Deut. 31:1-29; Matt. 19:16-30* ***F:*** *Deut. 31:30—32:27; Matt. 20:1-16* ***Sat:*** *Deut. 32:28-52; Matt. 20:17-34* ***Sun:*** *Deut. 34:1-12; Matt. 21:1-22*

❺**Preparing for Next Sunday** — *Lessons for* ***Reformation Sunday*** *(October 25):*
Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36; Psalm 46

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2026

Greeters — *Chris Neumann Family*
Elder — *Andy Schmitt;* Usher — *Jeff Ourada*
Altar Guild — *Mandy Neumann; Jr.* Altar Guild — *Greta Marks*
Cantor — *Russell Popp*; Acolyte — *Bryce Dolezal*
Organist — *Terry Ourada*
Pastor — *Rev. Paul W. Marks*

Introit (sung responsively after confession & absolution) Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 5

The LORD is your | keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
I lift up my eyes | to the hills.
From where does my | help come?
My help comes | from the LORD,
who made | heaven and earth.
He will not let your | foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not | slumber.
Behold, he who keeps | Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.
The LORD will keep you from all | evil;
he will | keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in
from this time forth and for- | evermore.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The LORD is your | keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.

Collect *(spoken by pastor)*

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual *(sung responsively)* Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels con- | cerning you
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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Today's Scripture Readings

Old Testament *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 to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
2"I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
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 the hoards in secret places,
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 name you, though you do not know me.
5I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
6that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
7I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things."

Epistle *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 give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 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 loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 22:15–22*

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. 16And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Scripture Quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version®

In Our Prayers this Week—

- *October missions of the month, Rev. Tyler McMiller and Lutherans in Africia.*
- *Peace among nations and safety for all in harm's way.*
- *The victims and families of all violence and disaster throughout the world.*
- *The family and friends of Jan Koepke, who mourn her death.*
- *The family and friends of Barbara Reysen, mother of Paul Reysen, who mourn her death.*
- *All expectant mothers, including Hayley.*
- *Keith Klein, recovering after hospitalization.*
- *Mark Mathe, recovering from surgery.*
- *Donna Boedel, recovering at Rocky Knoll.*
- *Eloda Krumwiede, grandmother of Naomi Marks, receiving hospice care.*
- *Linda Luft, sister of Mark Mathe, for health and healing.*
- *Brady Laib, brother-in-law of Aaron Buchholz, recovering from surgery.*
- *Liam Reznik, grandson of Dave & Roxanne Taylor, continuing health issues.*
- *Sherri Knorr, friend of Emmanuel members, recovering from surgery.*
- *All who are battling cancer:*
  - *Jessica Dolezal*
  - *Jayne Cotter*
  - *Norm Taylor*
  - *Jan Klug*
  - *Debi Verhage, daughter of Ruth McKenna*
  - *Dylan Martin, nephew of Chris and Mandy Neumann*
  - *Rev. Brad Birtell, brother of Amy Assmann*
  - *Gloria, friend of Chris Born*
  - *Connie Kilb, friend of Lori Cline*

Please also keep in prayer
—our Seminarian Andrew Harrill;
—Rev. Nathan Meador, our district president;
—Matthew Harrison, synod president;
—the members, officers and organizations of Emmanuel;
—our circuit congregation, St. John in Sherman Center and Rev. Christopher Gillespie;
—our Missionary Rev. Tyler McMiller and his family in Italy and Southern Europe; and
—our shut-in Members, Donna Bloedel

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'"
Matthew 22:21

EMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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