



Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edgar
and
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan

23rd Sunday after Pentecost October 19, 2008



8:15 a.m. – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan
10:15 a.m. – St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Edgar
congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod



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Welcome! We're glad that you joined us to receive the Lord's gifts today. We bid you welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus and hope you will come again. Also, if you haven't already done so, please sign our Guest Register as you leave. Thank-you!

Today's theme: "Render Unto Caesar"

The Lord's Supper will not be celebrated this morning. It will next be celebrated on October 26th.



A few words, though, about Communion:

In accord with our Lord's command, we at Bethlehem LCMS (Milan) and St. John LCMS (Edgar), adhere to the Scriptural, historical, and universal practice of Close Communion. This means that those communing at our altars are those with whom we are united in one confession. Ordinarily that means only active LC–MS members will commune at our altars.

Visitors who wish to take Holy Communion with us are asked to please see the pastor or an elder to obtain a Visitor Communion Card. Thank you in advance for helping us to be faithful to Scripture and to be good stewards of the Sacrament.

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549 *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

151 DIVINE SERVICE *setting four*

96 PSALM 96 (*responsively, by half-verse*)

152 KYRIE ~ *Lord, have mercy*

940 *"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"*

SERMON: *"Render Unto Caesar"*

159 APOSTLES' CREED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

680 *"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"*

BIBLE READINGS:

(If you choose to follow along with the readings printed here, remember the responses to each reading continue in the hymnal on pages 156–157)

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.