



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan

and

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edgar

24th Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 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: "Be Holy... As God is Holy"

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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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 190–191)

OLD TESTAMENT: Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18

¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²"Speak 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....

¹⁵"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

¹For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹²we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

HOLY 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 is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷And he 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 great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴²saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David, in 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 then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" ⁴⁶And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.