

Cycle A – Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 18, 2026

World Mission Sunday

“Give to Caesar things that are Caesars and to God things that are God’s”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 96)

Leader: Give the Lord glory and honor.
All: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Leader: Declare God’s glory among the nations
God’s marvelous works among the peoples.
**All: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
to be revered above all gods.**
Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor. **Amen.**



Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

The Roman Empire in Christ’s time was deemed to include the entire civilized world. Some welcomed Rome’s rule, others seethed with resentment. The Roman leader Pompey captured Jerusalem in 63 BC and levied an excessive tax. The taxes were a constant and painful reminder of the people’s subjugation. Local individuals were hired by the Roman officials and made their living by collecting taxes from other Jews. Therefore, these tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the enemy. The coin bore the profile of the Emperor Tiberius. Around the edge it read: “Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus.” Jesus’ reply was like saying: “Well if this is Caesar’s face and name on the coin, it must belong to him. You better give it back to him.”

1. What belongs to God? How is it given back to Him?
2. What challenge does Christ’s final reply offer us?
3. How should Christians behave when it comes to their duties as citizens of a country?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God’s challenge for us this week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For Christians engaged in politics. May they act for the good of all by staying faithful to the one true God and enact policy that respects all life, we pray to the Lord.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with “Our Father...”)

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: *God our loving Creator, you invite us, in the Psalm, to sing a new song.*

**All: We pray to You: May this new song not be merely a hymn on our lips
but the offering of our lives to the service of others.**

Leader: *May your will be done
even by those who do not know You or believe in You.*

**All: May the peoples praise you, O Lord, may all the people praise you.
Amen.**

Leader: *Let us share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.*