Readings + Reformation Sunday ~ Lect. 30 A + Oct. 25, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of the Day for Reformation

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to those who are poor or defer to those who are great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Psalmody Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul writes: 1 You yourselves know, dear family, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. 3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God, who tests our hearts. 5 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; 6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, 7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. 8 So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell of this encounter between Jesus and the leadership, with a few differences. In Luke's telling, the lawyer answers Jesus with love of God and neighbor, and is praised by Jesus. In Mark's account, it's a scribe who asks who then agrees with Jesus fulsomely and Jesus says "you are not far from the reign of God."

All three versions are appointed in the lectionary. Luke's is set for Lect. 15 C, mid-July, and includes the parable of the Good Samaritan which follows immediately after. (He has the part about David's Son in Holy Week like the others, but the love of God and neighbor earlier in Jesus' ministry.) Mark's is appointed for Lect. 31 B, which lands between Oct. 30 and Nov. 5. Matthew's is Lect. 30 A, which lands between Oct. 23 and Oct. 29. Because of our practice of Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday, we would normally miss two of these three, the central teaching of Jesus' ministry. That's why on some Reformation Sundays (like this week) we're using the appointed readings for the day, not Reformation readings.

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had
silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked
Jesus a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which
commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 Jesus
said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and
with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first
commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You
shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these
two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered
together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What
do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?"
They said to him, "The son of David." 43 Jesus
said to them, "How is it then that David by 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"'? 45 If David thus calls
him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was
able to give Jesus an answer, nor from that day
did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.