Scripture Readings – Oct. 18, 2026 – for LCUCPC

Psalm 96:1-13 (VU 816)

Refrain: Sing a new song unto God who has done such marvellous things.

Sing to God a new song;
sing your praise, all the earth.
Sing and bless God's holy name, tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.
Declare God's glory among the nations, among all the peoples God's wonderful works.
For great is God and greatly to be praised, to be revered above all the gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but you, O God, made the heavens.
Honour and majesty attend you,
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary R.

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples, ascribe to God glory and strength.
Ascribe glory to God's name, bring an offering and enter God's courts.
Worship God in the beauty of holiness and let the whole earth stand in awe.
Say among the nations: It is God who reigns!
The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.
God judges the peoples in equity. R…

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the fields exult, and all that is in them.
Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy, for you come, O God, to judge the earth.
You shall judge the earth in righteousness, its peoples with your truth. R

Matthew 22:15-22 NRSV Ue

The Question about Paying Taxes

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their
disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and
teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not
regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or
not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you
hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he
said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said
to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are
God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.
And may they awaken in our hearts

