

OCTOBER 19, 2014  
19TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

God calls us to honor earthly  
rulers and authorities.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned  
Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Matthew 17:24-27	Jesus pays the temple tax
Tuesday	Jeremiah 29:1-7	Advice to the exiles in Babylon
Wednesday	Daniel 1:3-21	Daniel in the king's court
Thursday	Romans 13:1-7	Duties towards state authorities
Friday	Titus 3:1-8	Doing what is good
Saturday	Psalms 2	A warning for earthly rulers
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God." Matthew 22:21 (CEV)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

We praise you Lord, for you are wise and compassionate. There is no other god. Amen. (Psalm 96:1-9; Isaiah 45:5-6)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

All thanks to God who gives us food and blesses all our days. To God who rules from heaven above, we offer heartfelt praise. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God fill your life with power through the Good News of Jesus. May he give you faith, hope and love and keep you strong in following him. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 1:3,5)

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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What symbols or images are on the coins you use? Which is your favorite?
- Jesus said, "Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:21). What belongs to earthly rulers? What belongs to God?
- How does God use earthly rulers to take care of us? Why is it important to support them? How can we do that?

### DEVOTIONS

Paul wrote that the Christians in Thessalonica had become "imitators" of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:7). Play a game of "Simon Says." Then, have a discussion about ways in which we "copy" others in our lives—both in good and bad ways. Discuss what it means to imitate Jesus and to be an example of Christian faith, hope and love to others. Pray for one another, giving thanks for the good work God is doing in and through each person in your home.

### SERVICE

Prepare an appreciation card to send to elected officials in your community, state or nation. Thank them for all they are doing to serve your community. Let them know that you are praying for them.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

An important faith practice or ritual is regular giving to the Lord through Sunday offerings. Discuss together what your household gives to the Lord. If you have not already done so, develop a regular pattern for setting aside each week what you will give in Sunday offerings. Include each household member in the practice of giving (even very young children can be involved).



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