Sermon Study Guide for October 18, 2026

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Today's sermon is about how Jesus saves us from all kinds of snares: the snares that others set for us, the snares that we set for others, and finally, the snare of the devil. The Pharisees often tried to trap Jesus in his words, but he would not let them succeed. Yet Jesus did willingly endure one snare – the snare of the cross – in order that we could be set free from all the snares we face and share this good news with others!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What do you usually do with your spare change?

2. When is the last time someone gave you a compliment? Do you remember what they said?

In the Word: Read Matthew 22:15-22

3. Why did the Pharisees and Herodians want to trap Jesus? Why do you think the Pharisees sent their disciples to Jesus instead of confronting him themselves?

4. The Pharisees and Herodians had differing political views when it came to their support (or lack thereof) of the Roman Empire. With this in mind, what made their question to Jesus so difficult to answer?

5. Why do you think Jesus's answer amazed his opponents?

6. Think of "Caesar" as a representative of every earthly government, including our own. What are the things that belong to God? What are the things that belong to Caesar? Do they overlap?

7. Read **1 John 3:8.** What work or works of the devil are present in Matthew 22:15-22 and how did Jesus destroy them?

8. Read **Matthew 26:62-63** and **Matthew 27:12-14.** How did Jesus respond differently to his opponents in these verses than in our story from Matthew 22? Why did he respond differently? (*Hint: Read Romans 5:6-8)*

Pulling It All Together

9. What are some ways that people today use words to get what they want or to make someone else look bad? How might this look in a family, a friendship, a marriage, or a workplace?

10. You've heard it said, "sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Do you think that saying is true? Why or why not?

11. Why can using our words to manipulate others end up hurting us and damaging our relationships?

12. Jesus gives forgiveness to those who have set snares and comfort to those who have been victims of a snare. Why are both of these gifts important?

13. What are some practical ways we can use our words to build others up this week?

Prayer: Pray that Jesus would forgive us when we use our words to manipulate or harm others, comfort those who have been hurt by the words of others, and free us to speak words that build up our neighbors in the love of Christ. Give thanks to Jesus who has destroyed the power of every snare.

Next Week: We celebrate the Reformation by reflecting on Martin Luther's "Gospel Rediscovery," when the Holy Spirit led him to see and proclaim the good news that Jesus frees us from sin so that we are free to love our neighbors as ourselves.