

Sunday, October 18th 2026

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

Physical Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
124 Three Oaks Lane
Bastrop, TX 78602**

**Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor
(512) 798-3682 (Voicemail/Text)
pastor@epiphanybastrop.org**

**church@epiphanybastrop.org
epiphanybastrop.org/
facebook.com/epiphanybastrop**

WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!”
(Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation by baptized believers in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

If you are not a member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive Communion, we kindly request that you first speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera
Assisting Elder – Ryan Robb
Usher – Dave Layland
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

We are using the Church Music Solutions Church Organist Service, an iPad application that provides us with accompaniment for our worship service. **There is a brief introduction to the musical parts of the liturgy unless otherwise noted.**

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted “*to entangle him in his words*” by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord’s anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations “*from the rising of the sun and from the west*” (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus “*to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings*” (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, “*in power and in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Thess. 1:5), foreigners from all over the world are “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*” (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude	Selected Music
Welcome and Greeting	Pastor
Announcements	
Opening Hymn	<i>“O God, Forsake Me Not”</i> LSB 731 <i>(stand)</i>

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8

P I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

**C My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

P He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**C Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

P The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**C The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis (no intro)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
²"I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,

I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, **“Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.”** And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, **“Whose likeness and inscription is this?”** ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, **“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”** ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

LSB 940

(stand)

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (no intro)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- ☐** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✙ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- ☐** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My ✙ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

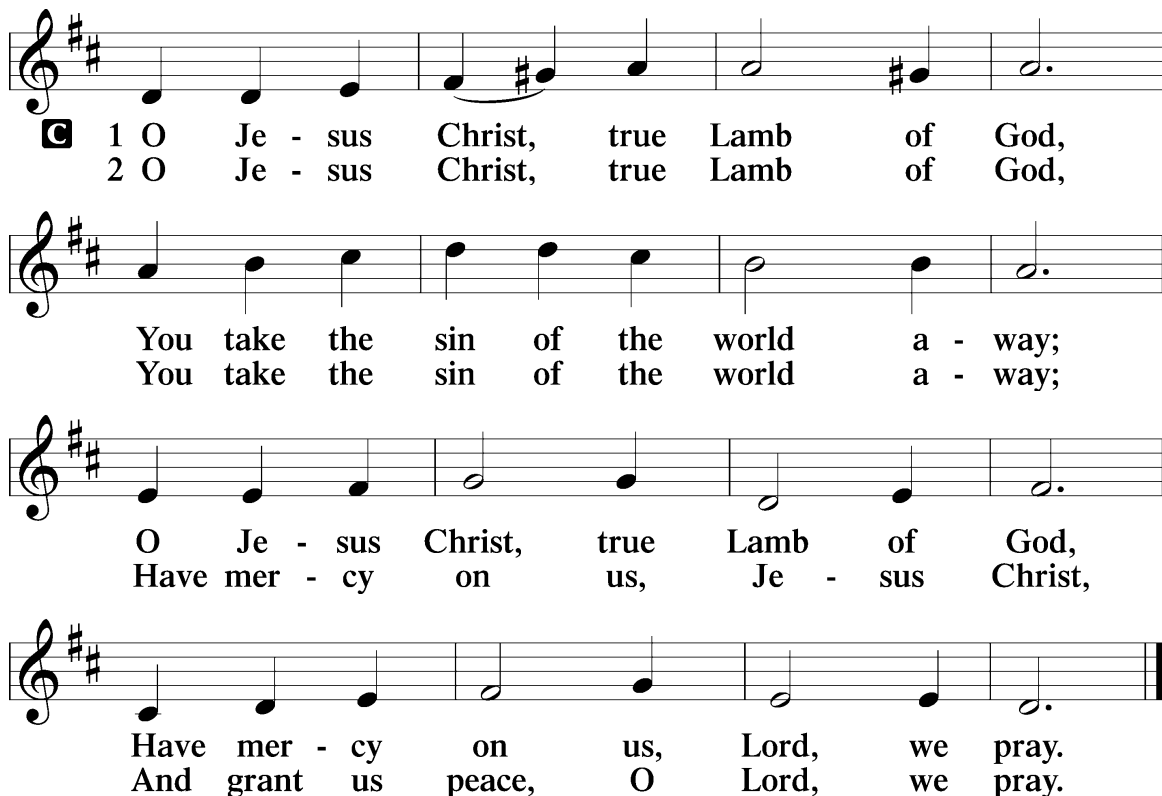
Pax Domini

John 20:19

- ☐** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ☩ Amen.**

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymns

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”
“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

LSB 851
LSB 782

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.

SERMON NOTES: Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus' death on the Cross gave back to God what is God's...

1. "_____." This includes, of course, taxes, but also respect, honor, prayers, obedience, and even participation in elections.
 2. Jesus distinguishes the _____ from the kingdom of the world in separating God and Caesar, that we might not give one what is due the other.
 3. Participation in the _____ process of a divinely instituted _____ is the obligation of every _____.
 4. We see in the Ten Commandments both the _____ that God gives as well as His _____ to _____ them.
 5. _____ 1:27 is a reminder that God's _____ has been imprinted on _____.
 6. Jesus' _____ on the _____ gave back to _____ what is God's.
-

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Reformation/Oktoberfest Rally Sunday on October 25! There will be no regular Sunday school that morning. After our 10:30am worship service, we'll gather for food, fellowship, and fun—BBQ and potluck, quality time together, and maybe some cornhole, horseshoes, or other activities. We hope you can join us!

New 9am Adult Sunday School series starts on November 1! What do you do when life feels louder than your faith? When pressure is constant, confidence is shaky, and you know God is calling you, but you don't feel ready for what He's asking? Join us for *Gideon: There Is a Champion in You*, a 6-week video study for anyone who has ever felt overwhelmed by chaos, trapped in insecurity, intimidated by opposition, or tempted to drift after success.

A reminder that we have an **Online Epiphany Church Directory**. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in. There's also a free mobile app available—simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. If you need help or have questions, contact Tom Rosser.

Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBj (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



ChristianBook Giveback Program: Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit christianbook.com/apps/giveback and enter the Giveback ID for Epiphany Lutheran Church: JQWHTN. After this one-time signup, we’ll be eligible to receive 4% cashback on your purchases.

The Lutheran Witness Subscription: Our congregation pays for each member household to receive a subscription to *The Lutheran Witness*, the monthly magazine of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, plus the *Texas Messenger* (monthly Texas District insert). Current subscriptions will be renewed next month for 2027. Each subscription costs \$32.00; if you would like to pay for your household’s subscription or aren’t a member and would like to purchase a subscription, please contact Margie Clifton (margie.clifton@epiphanybastrop.org) no later than Sunday, October 25.

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany’s prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Timothy and Lisa Sandeno – missionaries in Germany
- Francis Eschberger, Elaine Ottinger, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. *Render to Caesar*: This includes, of course, taxes, but also respect, honor, prayers, obedience, and even participation in elections.
2. Jesus distinguishes the *kingdom of God* from the kingdom of the world in separating God and Caesar, that we might not give one what is due the other.
3. Participation in the *political* process of a divinely instituted *democracy* is the obligation of every *Christian*.
4. We see in the Ten Commandments both the *gifts* that God gives as well as His *desire* to *protect* them.
5. *Genesis* 1:27 is a reminder that God’s *image* has been imprinted on *us*.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, October 18th

- 9:00am – Children's Sunday School
- 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, October 25th

- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion
 - After the worship service – Join us for food, fellowship, and fun!
-



Rendering to Caesar...

When President William McKinley died following an assassin's attack in September 1901, the nation mourned not merely the loss of its chief executive but the passing of a man whose character and Christian faith had earned widespread respect. In his funeral sermon, Lutheran pastor W. N. Harley reminded Americans that their grief carried a twofold responsibility: to honor their departed leader and to give God the reverence and gratitude due His name.

In opening with Jesus' words, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17), Harley is emphasizing the Christian's obligations to both earthly government and heavenly authority. The flag and the cross symbolize these responsibilities. Honoring a faithful public servant is appropriate because civil government itself is established by God to preserve peace, administer justice, and promote the common good (Romans 13:1–4).

McKinley deserved remembrance for more than his presidential office. Harley identifies four qualities worthy of particular recognition: 1) he served his country with dignity and patriotism, demonstrating respect for public office and avoiding the personal attacks so common in political campaigns; 2) he regularly attended worship, confessed Christ publicly, and demonstrated his faith even in death

(after being shot, McKinley reportedly expressed forgiveness toward his assassin); 3) he exemplified devotion to family—his tender care for his invalid wife, affection for children, and loving attention to his dying mother illustrated the importance of faithfulness in one's personal relationships; and 4) his rise from humble beginnings in Ohio to the presidency demonstrated the possibilities of diligence, integrity, and perseverance.

Yet Harley insists that national mourning must not end with praise for the departed president. The greater obligation is to turn toward God...

Americans should first thank God for granting them a Christian leader and a stable constitutional government. Although the president had been assassinated, the nation experienced an orderly transfer of power. The office endured even though its occupant had died. Such stability, Harley argues, deserves grateful acknowledgment as a blessing of divine providence.

McKinley's death also teaches the universal reality of human mortality. Neither power nor prestige can protect anyone from death. Scripture reminds us that all must die and face God's judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore, every person must prepare to meet God. If McKinley entered heaven, it was not because he had been president, nor because of his admirable character, but because he was a sinner redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation comes through Christ alone (Acts 4:12).

The sermon concludes by returning to Jesus' command: Christians must honor legitimate earthly authority while recognizing that their highest allegiance belongs to God. National tragedy should inspire not merely sorrow, but gratitude, repentance, faithful citizenship, and renewed trust in the King of kings.

[Condensed excerpt from *Funeral Sermons by Lutheran Divines*, collected and edited by Rev. Lewis Herman Schuh (1918), sermon 44, pp. 281–286.]