

Church of the Holy Cross

875 Cotton Street Shreveport, LA

July 17, 2018

The Homily delivered during Daily Morning Prayer by Garrett Boyte on July 6, 2018. (Matthew 22:15-22)

Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's. This passage of Scripture has been used, or misused, to justify why Christians should pay taxes, among other things related to the state.

And I don't think it's a mistake that this lesson has come during the week of Independence Day.

What's important to understand is that yes, Christians should pay taxes. We should vote as an act of stewardship to the earth and our fellow people. But we never put our hope or our trust in the state. Christians should always feel uneasy around the state because the state represents a different order than that of the Kingdom. Lest we forget it was the state that persecuted the earliest Christians, and we would do them the greatest dishonor by cozying up too much to the powers that be. Those Christians who were fed to wild beasts and ripped apart at the seam would scarce be able to imagine the level of comfort we enjoy in this country in our friendliness toward the state.

We owe the state the duty of its upkeep to the extent that it's administering justice. But we should never forget that we render to God the things that belong to God, which is everything. God's claim on our lives extends beyond the state's claim. So render unto Caesar, yes. But do not forget what you owe to God, your lives, your souls and bodies.

Never forget that Jesus is Lord is the oldest creed in the Church. The Lordship of Christ has major ramifications for Christians. Because Jesus is Lord, it means that Caesar is not. Because Jesus is Lord, it means that no other idol can stand in his place. Jesus' Lordship is not an opinion. It's a determinative political fact. And should we ever render unto Caesar those things which rightfully belong to God, it will be at our own peril.

Garrett Boyte

Jesus asks nothing without giving us the strength to perform it. ... And if we answer the call to discipleship, where will it lead us? To answer this question we shall have to go to him, for only he knows the journey's end. But we do know that it will be a road of boundless mercy. Discipleship means joy.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A prayer for mission:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*From The Book of Common Prayer
Daily Morning Prayer, page 100*

**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Year B Proper 11 Track 2
July 22, 2018**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

(Jeremiah 23:1-6) ...how do we live in response to this hope we have been promised? The receipt of this powerful gift of hope comes with responsibility. Our knowledge of this gift changes the entire landscape of our reality... We are called to share our knowledge of this powerful promise by word and deed. If we believe that a shepherd is on the way who will lead us in the ways of justice and righteousness, we need to be preparing for their arrival. What better greeting would there be for this shepherd of righteousness than to be living in the ways of God's righteousness as best we can in this time and place? Sometimes when we receive the promise that God will bring deliverance, we mistakenly believe we are removed from the pursuit of improving our current condition. On the contrary, we need to be deeply engaged in the world, doing all we can to prepare for the arrival of the shepherd... We stand strong in the promise of God's redeeming work as we seek to be faithful in the work we do for justice and peace for all God's children.

Douglas T. King

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Year B Proper 12 Track 2
July 29, 2018**

2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-19 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

(Psalm 145:10-19) To repeat the *Tehillah* (Hebrew word for hymn of praise) every day requires the children of God to give voice to praise on the days of richest blessing as well as the days of journey in the dark valley. Particularly when we have fallen or the powers of the world have bowed us down and we hunger for a life that nourishes the soul, praise uttered in these harsh times does not fall to the floor as empty words, but rests in the ears and heart of the Sovereign One. The psalmist promises, "The Lord is near to all who call on him." My God the King says, "Tell me where your are: I will be right there." In the presence of the King, God's children know they are children of the world to come.

Tom Are Jr.

In the Narthex:

Spiritual practices suggested by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry: Bishop Curry asks that Episcopalians commit to these practices daily in order that we might grow in the image of Jesus and answer more fully God's call to us.

A letter from Bishop Jake Owensby explaining the vote in General Convention authorizing the continuing study and development of supplemental liturgies for the church. He stresses that the Book of Common Prayer remains our source of liturgy and prayer for worship.

How to use the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

There will be a class on how to use the Book of Common Prayer taught by our seminarian Garrett Boyte. The class will be Saturday August 4 at 3:00 p.m. and will run about an hour and a half. Please bring a prayer book, and if you don't have one, we will provide one for the class. This class will not focus on the theology or history of the prayerbook but on how to use it in our everyday lives beyond the pages we use for Holy Eucharist on Sunday. For more information, please contact Garrett at garrettboyte@gmail.com or call the parish office.

Wednesday Study, led by Garrett Boyte, continues...

**Foundations of Christian Faith and Practice
Wednesday mornings at 11:00
Followed by Holy Eucharist
Holy Cross Undercroft**

Calendar for July

Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 pm	Chapel
Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 am	Rose Garden or Chapel
	Nursery	9:30 am - 12:15 pm	Education Building
	Sunday School	10:30 am	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist	11:00 am	Nave
Tuesdays through Fridays	Daily Office of Morning Prayer	8:15 am	Nave
	Daily Office of Evening Prayer	5:30 pm	Nave
Wednesdays	Foundations of Christian Faith, Holy Eucharist	11:00 am	Undercroft
Thursdays	Art and Bible Study	1:30 pm	Fairmont Apartments

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 11 July 22, 2018

Mass 421 Allein Gott in der Höh, Proulx, and Hurd

Psalm 23 sung solo by Dvorak

Anthem *Loving Shepherd* de Corbeil; Lenel, arr.

Hymn 537 Moscow 567 St. Matthew 472 (1-3) Donne secours 522 Austria
Organ *Church Sonata in E Flat, KV 67; Andante in F, KV 616; and Overture in C, KV 399* Mozart

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 12 July 29, 2018 n

Mass 421 Allein Gott in der Höh, Proulx, and Hurd

Psalm 145:10-19 Robert Knox Kennedy

Anthem *There's a wideness in God's mercy* Bevan

Hymn 423 St. Denio 635 Wer nur den lieben Gott 472 Donne secours 414 Stuttgart
Organ *Fidelis, Folk Tune, Andante tranquillo, and Fanfare* Whitlock
Celtic Melody O'Connor-Morris

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Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*

Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, disposable razors, and personal size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **April** and **May**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D.
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. Mary B. Richard
The Rev. Sally M. Fox
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul
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Mr. Bruce Power
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