

Order Of Lenten Service

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Opening Hymn: TLH 160

Reading: **Lent VII**

The History of the Passion of our Lord

Sermon Hymn: TLH 482

Sermon Text: Hebrews 13:17

Shepherds Under Christ

Prayer

Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: TLH 156

Bible Study: Lambs: Luke 2:8-14; Shepherds At Night
Sheep: Proverbs 1:20-23; Your Choice



Palm Sunday

Water
Of
Life

WATER OF LIFE

Independent Christian Church—Conservative Lutheran Doctrine

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study: 10:45 a.m.

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Sermon Text: Hebrews 13:17

Shepherds Under Christ

17: Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Here in this section of Hebrews 13, the Holy Spirit has listed three *obligations* which the Lord God requires of his children. They could perhaps be listed this way:

:15—our *spiritual* obligation to God

:16—our *social* obligation to our neighbor

:17—our *ecclesiastical* obligation to our church leaders

As far as our obligation to our church leaders goes, the picture of a *pendulum* comes to mind. There are two extremes to which we can go, and history illustrates both.



Pendulum

The first danger is to make *way too much* of our earthly church leaders. They can, and many do, become too powerful and influential. They may have the Treasure, but it is in a clay vessel. They are sinners just like everyone else.

The second danger is to make *way too little* of our earthly church leaders. It is blessedly true that we are all “kings and priests” unto God. But at the same time it is also true that godly church workers are a blessing from the Lord to his church. We can and should learn very much from them.

History has all too clearly shown us that the pendulum swings way too far both ways. And this poses great dangers to the outward visible church. The words of Hebrews 13:17 should be taken very seriously by the churches of our own generation.