God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world, there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

As infections continue to spread, and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, inspire all leaders to step forward in a unified response, protect and empower those who care for the sick, and bring healing to all who suffer during this plague.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDER of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now take this opportunity to make an announcement concerning floor practice during the coronavirus pandemic.

First, the Chair wishes to underscore the importance of safe practices during votes. As the Chair stated on July 29, 2020, under clause 2 of rule I, the Chair is required to preserve order and decorum in the Chamber. This includes the responsibility to ensure the protection of Member and staff health and safety during proceedings.

To that end, based upon health and safety guidance from the attending physician and the Sergeant at Arms, the Chair would advise that all Members should leave the Chamber promptly after casting their votes. Furthermore, Members should avoid congregating in the rooms leading to the Chamber, including the Speaker's lobby.

As a reminder, the Chair will continue the recent practice of providing small groups of Members with a minimum of 5 minutes within which to cast their votes. Members are encouraged to vote with their previously assigned group. After voting, Members must clear the Chamber to allow the next group a safe and sufficient opportunity to vote.

It is essential for the health and safety of Members, staff, and the U.S. Capitol Police to consistently practice social distancing and to ensure that a safe capacity be maintained in the Chamber at all times. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to enforce this policy.

Second, the Chair wishes to remind Members that the announcement of July 29, 2020, regarding the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House remains in effect. Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask. Masks will be available at the entry points for any Member who forgets to bring one.

To reiterate, the Chair views the failure to wear masks as a serious breach of decorum.

I repeat, Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask.

The Chair appreciates the attention of all Members and staff to these principles.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?

(Mr. HARDER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask: What the hell is happening in Washington?

I am not one to spend my time throwing bombs on this floor, but during this single minute, another American will die from COVID, and even more people are slipping into poverty because this town can't get its act together.

I have had enough.

Millions of people can't get to work. They can't put food on the table. They are missing rent or mortgage payments.

Since we passed the CARES Act, which was a strong step forward, the best this town can do is finger-pointing.

It is disgusting.

Everyone believes we are incapable of doing our jobs, and right now, we are proving them right.

The reality is, there is plenty of blame to go around, but Americans need another stimulus check. They needed it months ago.

We need expanded unemployment back, especially now that cases are exploding at a higher rate than at any other point during this pandemic.

It is time to grow up. It is time to do what we are paid for. It is time to do our jobs.

PASS SOS ACT TO HELP LIVE MUSIC VENUES SURVIVE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWNS

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Save Our Cities and Stages Act, better known as the Save Our Stages Act, as a standalone bill so that independent live music venues can survive and recover from COVID–19.

During this pandemic, these venues have been hardest hit, as they were the first to close and will be among the last to reopen due to safety restrictions and government mandates.

They generate billions of dollars in our national economy and create thousands of jobs every year. They are a cultural staple in central Texas and the 25th District, unlike any other place in our Nation.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of working with owners and managers of dozens of venues like Hudson's On Mercer Street in Dripping Springs, Songbird Live in Cleburne, and The Broken Spoke in Austin to highlight the urgency of passing this legislation.

It is crucial we deliver, not only for their livelihoods, but for the artists who start out on their stages and the future generations inspired by their work. Every day we waste is detrimental to this industry.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Speaker PELOSI to bring the Save Our Stages Act to the House floor for a vote.

In God we trust.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT WORK

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud of American democracy, and I want to talk about American democracy.

In this election, record numbers of voters turned out to cast their ballots, with very few voting irregularities.

A record number of young people turned out to cast their ballots and express their voice by voting.

We saw civil servants and folks tabulating those ballots. We saw American democracy at work, and we ought to be proud of that.

On January 20, we will welcome President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS in a peaceful transfer of power.

God bless the United States, and God bless our democracy.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Givens