

Independence Day Service

July 5, 2020 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, TX



Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

P President Abraham Lincoln said over a century ago that it was the duty of nations and individuals to “recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proved by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.” As God’s blessed people, we begin in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

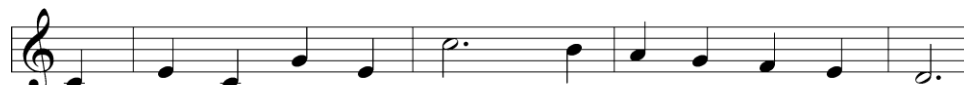
Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag

A *I pledge allegiance to the cross of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and to the faith for which it stands; one Savior, King Eternal, with mercy and grace for all.*

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

A *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.*

Opening Hymn | LSB 966 (st. 1-2, 4) **“Before You, Lord, We Bow”**—(Francis Scott Key, who wrote our national anthem, wrote the words to this hymn.)



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

A *Almighty God, we often turn from You and put our trust in people or things that cannot help or save us. We follow the temptations of our sinful desires and of the world around us. We do not help those in need and we keep the good news of freedom in Christ to ourselves. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake.*

P In mercy God sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered the penalty of death for our sins and was raised on the third day. We have forgiveness, life and liberty through faith in His name. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

A *The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down! The Lord sets the prisoners free! Praise the Lord!*

Hymn of Praise | LSB 537 (st. 1, 4) | "Beautiful Savior"

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of
God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -
serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, we are blessed to live in a nation that celebrates and defends liberty for its citizens. Still, like the saints of old, we "desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one." Through the death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior, You have set us free from sin and death. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we might live now as faithful servants of Jesus our King until we enjoy the eternal liberty of that better country where we will live forever in Your presence. Hear our prayer for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading | Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴ Certainly we know that the law is spiritual, but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. ¹⁹ So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. ²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. ²² I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, ²³ but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of sin, which is present in my

members. ²⁴What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Holy Gospel | Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to You. ²⁷Everything has been entrusted to Me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Hymn of the Day | LSB 965 | "God Bless Our Native Land"



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;

Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with

wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Message

Profession of Faith | Apostles Creed

A *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayers of the Church

P Almighty God, all that we have and enjoy is a gift from Your gracious hand. We come before You today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people, its just laws

and Your gift of liberty. We especially thank You for the freedom we have to worship You and to serve You without fear.

Look with favor upon this nation, this state and this community. Preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities. Give us willing hearts to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

Bless our fields, that they may produce abundant harvest. Guard us from calamities of nature, terrorism and war, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic, especially the coronavirus.

Strengthen the homes of our nation. By Your Spirit, lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility and children to show respect.

(Other petitions are offered.)

When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful. In troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail. We ask these and all things through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn of Invitation | LSB 619 (st. 1 & Refrain) | "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which Thou for
me didst shed, These are my life and strength for -
ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
Refrain
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be
for my soul the high - est good!

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Invitation to the Meal

P On the night before He would give His life as a ransom for the sins of the whole world, Jesus instituted a sacred meal. Here, in His Supper, He gives us His own body to eat and

His own blood to drink. Here, in His Supper, He offers forgiveness of sins and strength for our life of faith. Blessed are they who eat of this Bread of Life and drink from this cup of salvation.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

- P** Jesus, let Your words awaken a right spirit within us. Let us pray as You taught us to pray, declaring our dependence on You:
- A** *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.*

Distribution Hymns

LSB 717 | "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
 2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard And hushed their rag - ing
 3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
 3 Most Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
 runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
 at Thy word, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep And
 fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
 dark and rude, And bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we
 all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 guard - ing hand From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

“Christ, By Heavenly Hosts Adored” | [Tune: ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR]

1. Christ, by heav’nly hosts adored, Gracious, mighty, sov’ reign Lord,
God of nations, King of kings, Head of all created things,
By the Church with joy confessed, God the Son forever blessed,
Pleading at Your throne we stand, Save Your people, bless our land.
2. On our fields of grass and grain Send, O Lord, the kindly rain,
And throughout this spacious land Crown the labors of each hand.
Let Your kind protection be Over commerce on the sea.
Open, Lord, Your bounteous hand; Bless Your people, bless our land.
3. Give us rulers faithful, true, Such as love and honor You;
Let the powers You ordained Be in righteousness maintained.
In the people’s hearts increase Love of piety and peace.
Thus united, we shall stand One wide, free, and happy land.

[Text: Henry Harbaugh, 1817-67, alt.; Public domain]

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” | [Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM]

My country, ‘tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim’s pride,
From ev’ry mountainside Let freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom’s song;
Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers’ God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1805-1895; Public domain. Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM, Thesaurus Musicus, London, 1744; Public domain.

Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

G Amen.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

Closing Hymn | “America, the Beautiful” | Tune: MATERNA

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties Above the fruited plains.
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness.
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control Thy liberty in law.

Text: Katharine L. Bates (1859-1929). Public domain. Music: Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903). Public domain.

Sending

P For freedom Christ has set us free! Walk by the Spirit, and go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude