

# Independence Day Weekend

## Freedom in Christ

July 5, 2026 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

By the grace of God, we enjoy freedom – political freedom and spiritual freedom. We are free from being slaves to a dictator because God worked through our founding fathers to give independence to our country. We are free from being slaves to sin because Jesus died and rose again for us. God wants us to be good citizens of our earthly country and also good citizens of the Kingdom of God. Today we give thanks to God for all the freedoms he has given us!

**Prelude:** "America the Beautiful" – Charles Callahan  
"Battle Hymn" – Alfred Fedak

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God's Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

### **Hymn: God of Our Fathers**

Lutheran Worship 501

1. God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before your throne arise!
2. Your love divine has led us in the past.  
In this free land by you our lot is cast.  
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.
3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense!  
Your true religion in our hearts increase!  
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace!
4. Refresh your people on their toilsome way.

Lead us from night to never-ending day!  
Fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace,  
Until at last we meet before your face!

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord! (Psalm 33:12)
- C** **Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy!**
- P** For God shall judge the peoples righteously,
- C** **And govern the nations upon the earth. (Psalm 67:4)**

### Prayer of Confession

- P** Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) We celebrate political freedom today, but all too often we live in spiritual slavery because we disobey our God on many occasions. Today we need to examine our hearts and turn again to Jesus Christ, our Savior, for forgiveness.

We take a few moments for silent reflection and prayer.

- A** **Lord God, you have given us great freedom, but so often we take it for granted. Even worse, we have abused our privileges. We have done things that are not right. We have said harsh, unloving words. Our hearts have been resentful, selfish, impatient, worried, doubting your Word and wanting our own way. Sin is part of our nature. So on this Independence Day weekend, we turn to you for help. For the sake of Jesus, who died and rose from the dead for us, forgive us and free us and help us to change. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." (John 8:32) This is the truth: in spite of our wrongdoing, God loves us. Jesus Christ died on the cross for everything we have done wrong and rose from the dead to give us eternal life. God himself has freed us from our sins, and based on His Word, I say to all of you who believe in Christ, that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C** **Amen.**

## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

### Psalm 33:1-12

- P** Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous!
- C** **It is fitting for the upright to praise him.**
- P** Praise the Lord with the harp.
- C** **Make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**
- P** Sing to him a new song;
- C** **Play skillfully, and shout for joy.**
- P** For the word of the Lord is right and true;
- C** **He is faithful in all he does.**
- P** The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
- C** **The earth is full of his unfailing love.**
- P** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
- C** **Their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**
- P** He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
- C** **He puts the deep into storehouses.**
- P** Let all the earth fear the Lord;
- C** **Let all the people of the world revere him.**
- P** For he spoke, and it came to be;
- C** **He commanded, and it stood firm.**
- P** The Lord foils the plans of the nations;
- C** **He thwarts the purposes of the people.**
- P** But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
- C** **The purposes of his heart through all generations.**
- P** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
- C** **The people he chose for his inheritance.**

### Hymn of Praise: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

LSB 805

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

Lutheran Book of Worship 500

1. Faith of our fathers, living still,  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whenever we hear that glorious Word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.
2. Faith of our fathers, we will strive  
To win all nations unto Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
We all shall then be truly free.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.

## Prayer for Independence Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Heavenly Father, thank you for our country and for the freedom to worship you and proclaim your Word! Thank you also for all those who dedicate their lives to defending our freedoms, to maintaining the peace, and to serving the common good. Guide them in your ways and bless their work. And help all of us here today to live as good citizens of this earthly country and as good ambassadors of your heavenly country. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sit

- P** In his personal diary, John Quincy Adams, our sixth President, wrote: "I speak as a man of the world to men of the world; and I say to you, Search the Scriptures! The Bible is the book of all others, to be read at all ages, and in all conditions of human life; not to be read once or twice or thrice through, and then laid aside, but to be read in small portions of one or two chapters every day, and never to be intermitted, unless by some overruling necessity."

## Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

(God promises blessings to the nation of Israel if they follow his ways.)

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.

<sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

<sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

<sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

<sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

<sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him.

<sup>10</sup> Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. <sup>11</sup> The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. <sup>13</sup> The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. <sup>14</sup> Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them. (NIV)

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament (Epistle) Reading

Romans 13:1-7

(Christians are to be good citizens of their earthly country.)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but

for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (NIV)

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

**Alleluia** (Melody: Darwall's 148th)

O nation, join to raise from sea to shining sea  
Your great Creator's praise, Author of liberty!  
Alleluia! With joy prolong your grateful song. Alleluia!

**P** In May of 1765, Patrick Henry boldly declared: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

**Reading from the Holy Gospel**

Matthew 22:15-22

(Give to the government what belongs to the government – and to God what is God's.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup> They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup> Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

<sup>18</sup> But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

<sup>21</sup> "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away. (NIV)

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

### **Children's Song: My God is So Great**

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do!  
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do!  
The mountains are his, the rivers are his! The stars are his handiwork too!  
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do!

### **Story Time**

#### **Hymn: My Country, 'Tis of Thee**

Lutheran Book of Worship 566

- 1 My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing:  
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From ev'ry mountainside, Let freedom ring.
- 2 My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills, Like that above.
- 3 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.
- 4 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 and tune: Public domain

### **Sermon**

#### **Pledge to Our Earthly Country**

**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.**

## Pledge to Our Heavenly Country

**I pledge allegiance to the Cross of Jesus Christ my Savior, and to the faith for which it stands, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one body (the Church), one Spirit, one hope; one God and Father, with grace and mercy for all.** (based on Ephesians 4:4-6)

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In his Proclamation of 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson stated, "I remind all Americans of the line from the Star-Spangled Banner: 'In God is our trust.'"

**P** Lord, thank you for giving us freedom in Christ. Thank you for loving and forgiving us, in spite of all the mistakes we make in this life. Strengthen our faith and help us to live for you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, thank you for the political freedom that we enjoy here in the United States. Please protect our soldiers and others who put themselves at risk to protect our freedoms. Guide the leaders of our nation. Root out corruption and injustice. Let peace and mercy flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Jesus, our Prince of peace, extend your peace and justice to every part of the world. Protect and encourage our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution for their faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing and guidance today for our families. Help us to show your love to those who are close to us. Guide us so that our children may grow up in your way. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we ask that you take special care of your church throughout the world. Help us to be faithful and share your salvation with those who do not yet believe in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy Spirit, have compassion upon our struggles. Heal those who are sick. Comfort those whose hearts are broken or who have had to say goodbye to a loved one. Grant peace and help to those of us who are facing problems at home, at work, at school, or at any other place. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

**P** We thank you, Lord, because we know that you hear all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not spoken aloud. We love you and praise you forever! In Jesus' name.

**C Amen.**

## Offering

The Bible says, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." (1 Corinthians 16:2a, NIV) Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love.

### Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

**In-Person donations:** You can place your donation in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

**On-line Banking donations:** You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912.

**Mail donations:** Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

**Other Electronic donation option:** You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at [www.alconnect.faitb](http://www.alconnect.faitb) or by scanning the QR code below. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofit organizations. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

**Donations via an app:** If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.

The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. As a guest, please do not feel obligated in any way to make a contribution. We believe that any gift to the Lord should be uncoerced and from the heart — as a loving response to God's grace.



**Special Music during the Offering: Bless All the Nations, Lord** (F. Meuser)  
Tune: "God Bless America" (Congregation is invited to sing along.)

1. Bless all the nations, Lord, Not us alone.  
Bless all the leaders With wisdom  
With the light shining bright from your throne.  
Bless the homeless And the hopeless  
All the children, lost and lone.  
Bless all the nations, Lord, not us alone.

Bless all the nations, Lord, not us alone.

2. Help us to love the world Just as you do.  
Fill our hearts, Lord, With Christ's love  
That we all may give glory to you.  
Bless the hungry And the weary  
Show us all what we can do.  
Help us to love the world, just as you do.  
Help us to love the world, we trust in you.
  
3. Where people fight and die May conflict cease.  
Touch the people in all lands With a heartfelt commitment to peace.  
Heal all hatreds, calm all vengeance  
From such passions bring release.  
Bless all the nations, Lord, so wars may cease.  
Give to all people, Lord, your wondrous peace.

Stand

### **Offering Prayer**

- A** **Holy Spirit, fill our lives today. Forgive our sins and bring every part of us under your control. Bless these offerings and use them to bring others to faith and to help those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Offertory:** From Lutheran Service Book 785

We praise you, oh God, our Redeemer, Creator!  
In grateful devotion, our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you!  
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing!

## **✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠**

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### **Invitation and Preparation for Communion**

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people. In Communion, God wants to assure us that we have been forgiven through faith in Jesus who gave his body and blood for us on the cross.

To prepare for Communion, we follow what 1 Corinthians 11:28 says: "Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup." Therefore, if you wish

to participate in Communion today, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, that is, that I have failed to keep God's commands as I should, and that I need forgiveness?
2. Do I trust in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, who died and rose for me?
3. Do I believe as I eat the bread and drink the cup, that I also receive the true body and blood of Jesus that He gave for me on the cross – even though I can't fully explain it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to follow Jesus more closely and obey him more faithfully?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you share a common faith with our Christian congregation and you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our common faith is expressed in more detail in the Creed that we confess together during the worship service.

### **Special Instructions for Communion:**

- Children and those who are not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about the Christian faith.
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to give you the bread.
- During Communion, you may take one of the small communion cups from the tray, or you may wait and drink from the common cup.
- On the tray of small communion cups, those cups in the center of the tray have light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice. The other cups have wine.

If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

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### **Preparation for Communion**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** Lord God, it is right for us to give you thanks and praise now and forever, here and in every place, not only for your blessings on our earthly country, but even more for giving us true freedom and eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we join together with believers of every race and nation in heaven and on the earth, to praise your name!

**Sanctus** (Song of Praise)

Lutheran Service Book 506 stanza 1

1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to  
God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** 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  $\text{✠}$  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 testament in My  $\text{✠}$  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)

LSB 209

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **Agnus Dei** (Lamb of God, John 1:29)

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

## Hymns during Communion

### **Special Music: "We Stand"** (Bryan Perdue)

Here we stand united! We never are alone!

Our Lord, steadfast, beside us, leads us on the path He's shown.

In His love we are together, a light in darkness shining,  
A guide to bring them homeward, to His table, there to dine.

At His table there are many, all the people of the land,  
No more colors that are blinding, together hand in hand.

Love is here forever. My neighbor is my friend.  
No nations come between us. We are brothers to the end.

As we wait for his returning, at our table is the sharing.  
We hold to love and kindness until He brings us home.

Stay with me, my brother! Together we do stand!  
We hold tomorrow's promise in our children and this land.

Our love shows our compassion! And it's plain for all to see.  
In the loving, we stand stronger! In our sharing we are free!

At His table there are many, all the people of the land,  
No more colors that are blinding, together hand in hand, we stand!

### **This is My Song** (tune: Finlandia)

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine.  
But other hearts in other lands are beating,  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.
3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:  
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
And hearts united learn to live as one.  
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;  
Myself I give thee, let thy will be done.

## Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past

Lutheran Service Book 733



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

## How Great Thou Art

Lutheran Service Book 801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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## Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Lutheran Service Book 717



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  
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the  
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 -  
fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save  
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  
 all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy  
 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.  
 watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.  
 rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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## After Communion:

### Nunc Dimittis

Lutheran Service Book 506 stanza 4



4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of



an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!



Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,



glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

### Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Heavenly Father, we are blessed to live in a nation that celebrates and defends liberty for its citizens. Still, like the Bible says, 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 heavenly country where we will live forever in Your presence. Hear our prayer for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ grant you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

**C Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: America the Beautiful** Oramus Cantado "We Pray in Song" 800

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!
- 2 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.
- 3 O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness. And ev'ry gain divine.
- 4 O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

### **Sending**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
**C Thanks be to God!**

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak  
Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren  
Elders: Mike Mielke/Don Wiegert  
Acolyte: Nedavia Meraz  
Reader: Jan Schlak  
Greeters: Patrick & Landrey Mars  
Ushers: Team 1  
Altar Care: Mielke  
Projectionist: Jacob Canada  
Sound/Camera: Ron Seiders/Mike Mielke

## **Prayer Ministry                      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please fill out the blue friendship card or call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or an update for the prayer list. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com). The prayer list is no longer included in the bulletin; but a separate sheet of paper that can be picked up alongside of the bulletins in the entrance.

## **Ascension News and Notes**

**July 10 – Joe Karl & Cheryl Canada-Karl**



### **(SHORT) Congregational Meeting July 12th, 2026**

Please join us immediately after the worship service.

### **Voting on the proposed 2026-2027 Preschool Budget**

\*The following copies are available in the church office to be printed upon request:

Congregation Agenda for July 12th, 2026 meeting

Proposed 2026-2027 Preschool Budget & Registration

Proposed repair cost for the swing gate

Congregation Minutes for prior meeting on Dec. 14, 2025

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (July 5th) Independence Day Weekend**

9:00 AM Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion



### **Monday (July 6th)**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday (July 7th)**

3:30 PM Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)

### **Wednesday (July 8th)**

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)  
3:00 PM Elders' Meeting (FH)

### **Thursday (July 9th)**

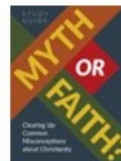
### **Friday (July 10th)**

### **Saturday (July 11th)**

**NO Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study for the month of JULY!**

Upon resuming in August, it will continue studying *Myth or Faith | Clearing up Common Misconceptions about Christianity* (Concordia Publishing House).

Contact Elliott Werner (915-603-7497) for more information.



**Bible Study Snack Refreshments:** July 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> are open. Sign-up list is on wall next to kitchen serving counter.

**July Calendar** & **NEW Portals of Prayer (July-Sept. 2026)** are both available for pick-up in the **entrance of the church.**

### **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

**July 15th at Como's Italian Restaurant**

Located at 4030 N. Mesa St.



Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ **6:00 PM** we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915) 581-5566  
We hope you can join us.