

# Independence Day: The Blessed Land

## July 5, 2020

Thank God for our nation! The celebration of Independence Day is not part of the traditional Church Year calendar. Rather, it is a national celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of our land. In observing the day, we are connected with the biblical record of God's people in times past who expressed thanks for the blessings that God had given to them through the nation of which they were part. The psalmist writes, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 33:12). As we bring our thankful praise to God, we ask that His blessing on our land would continue for generations.

### Pre-Service Music: American Anthology

(Video)

### Welcome / Announcements

### We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen

### Opening Sentences *Psalm 33:1–5*

**Pastor:** Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

**People:** Praise befits the upright.

**Pastor:** Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;

**People:** make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!

**Pastor:** Sing to Him a new song;

**People:** play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

**Pastor:** For the word of the LORD is upright,

**People:** and all His work is done in faithfulness.

**Pastor:** He loves righteousness and justice;

**People:** the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

### Opening Hymn: Before You, Lord, We Bow

LSB 966 (1 & 2)

1  
Before You, Lord, we bow,  
Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below,  
Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring  
In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise  
To You, our King!

2  
The nation You have blest  
May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest,  
Protected by Your care.  
For this bright day,  
For this fair land—  
Gifts of Your hand—  
Our thanks we pay.

Text and music: Public domain

### Confession and Absolution

**Pastor:** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**People:** Almighty God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, undeserving of Your mercy. We admit that we have sinned against You in countless ways. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always been the citizens of our blessed nation we could be, taking for granted the gift of freedom that is ours. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus

**Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

**Pastor:** God has promised forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him in contrition. In kindness and love, He promises pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

**People:** Amen.

**Hymn of Praise: All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

LSB 791 (1 & 3)

**1** All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

**3** O enter then His gates with praise;  
Approach with joy His courts unto.  
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

Text and music: Public domain

**Prayer of the Day: A Prayer for Independence Day**

Video

**God Speaks to Us Through His Word**

**God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet**

Micah 4:1–5

It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,  
and many nations shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide for strong nations afar off;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;  
but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.  
For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle**

Romans 13:1–7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do

wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **God Speaks to Us Through His Son**

Matthew 22:15–22

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.  
**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Hymn of The Day: Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored**

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.

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

#### **God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Bailes: "Ultimate Authority"**

Romans 13:1-7

#### **Nicene Creed**

**People:** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,

begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\times$  of the world to come. Amen.

## We Worship God with Our Offerings

*(Although we are not "passing the plate" at this time, you still have the opportunity to give your offering in two different ways. The easiest and most secure way is to go to our website and give a one-time or recurring offering. Or you can mail a check to the Church Office, attention "Financial Secretary." Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)*

## Offertory Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save

LSB 717 (1 & 4)

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
Our people shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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## Prayer Of The Church

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church, that the message of salvation be proclaimed joyfully throughout all the world and that those who faithfully share the Gospel and who live it out in their lives know blessing and contentment.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** We pray for the nations of the world, that all would know times of peace and security. Grant that the leaders of our nation be endowed with wisdom and courage, that they seek the well-being of our people in every way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** We pray for all workers in the Church, asking the blessings of holy wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors, deaconesses, and teachers. By their devoted service in response to their calling, grant that faith and faithfulness abound and Your kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** We pray for our nation as we rejoice in the freedoms we enjoy. We give You special thanks for all those who serve in the military, in medical professions, as educators, and as emergency personnel. Grant that we live out our citizenship with dedication and gratitude. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** We pray for special conditions and circumstances. By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.  
**People:** **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** **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.**

### **Benediction**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**People:** **Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

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

**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.**

**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.**

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907, alt. Public domain

### **Sending: Living Savior Mission Statement**

**Pastor** As we continue this day, let us remember our mission is...  
**People** **Making an eternal impact today through the love of Jesus Christ.**

## Our Lord Comes to Us in His Body and Blood

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*  
**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*  
**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because You have placed us as citizens in a free nation, where without fear we can rejoice in the salvation won for us by our Savior, and with joy live out our lives awaiting the heavenly feast in Your eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Holy is the Lord: Holy, Holy, Holy** LSB 507 (1 & 2)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;**  
**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,**  
**Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;**  
**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,**  
**Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

Text and music: Public Domain

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell.

Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### The Words Of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**Pastor:** 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  $\times$  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  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Proclamation Of Christ

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

*Revelation 22:20*

## **Peace of the Lord**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## **Lamb of God**

*(p. 163 in hymnal)*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** Come, for the table of the Lord has been prepared for you....