

INDEPENDENCE DAY

For Freedom
July 7, 8, 2018

AS WE GATHER

“For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). During this week when people across our great land celebrate the freedoms that belong to us in the United States of America, the people of God bow before the Lord in humble praise and prayer, acknowledging the true source of our freedom. Set free from our captivity to sin and Satan by the redeeming work of Christ, we live as free people. We belong to God! As citizens of heaven with temporary citizenship in our country, we treasure all the earthly blessings we now have, including the freedoms of our country. Today, let us use those freedoms for the sake of the One who sets us free. We are free to love our God. We are free to worship Him in Spirit and truth. We are free to love our neighbor. And we are free to bring the saving Gospel to all we meet. God bless America! And God bless all His people this day—and every day—with the freedom that is ours in Christ!

WELCOME

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.” (Ephesians 5:8-9)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #717 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

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.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O’er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev’ry peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle’s flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev’ry peril in the air.

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

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. Nothing we can do will ever set us free. You alone provide liberty for the captives and freedom for those under sin’s curse. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In Christ Jesus, you who once were held in captivity are now set free—free indeed! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #818 “In Thee Is Gladness”

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!
Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav’n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o’er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Father, you have set us free from the curse of sin through the redeeming work of your Son. Grant that we who have been set free from our captivity use our freedom to rejoice in your blessings and share them with the world Christ died to save; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:1-7* (Liberty is proclaimed to the captives.) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD,

that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

EPISTLE *Galatians 5:1, 13-14* (For freedom Christ has set us free.)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31-36* (The Son of God sets you free.)

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #966 “Before You, Lord, We Bow”

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!
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.

May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore, And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!

SERMON *"Freedom"* **John 8:31-36**

(Rise)
NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*
(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Almighty and everlasting God, your Son reigns over all the nations. By His Gospel, pour out your Holy Spirit on your people. Open our lips to speak your Word with boldness to one and all. By the mercy we have received in your Son, wholly shape our lives in love so that all we say, all that we do, may bring glory and praise to you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind Father, move all congregations to sound forth the call to repentance without fear. Keep them faithful in their proclamation of your Word, especially in the face of those who oppose it and refuse to hear it. Raise up workers for your harvest fields to speak your

Word as we wait for the coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of your every promise. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Ruler of the nations, protect and care for our country. Give wisdom to our president, our governor and to all who make, administer or judge our laws. Bless all public servants as they attempt to provide safety and stability to our society. Give them courage to protect the free exercise of religion and to honor and protect every life from conception to natural death. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your grace is sufficient for us and your power is made perfect in weakness. Into your loving hands, we commend all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit especially your servants LuEva, Vern, Dorothy, Judy, Dick, Dorothy, Carol, Anita, Cindy, Pastor Bender, Junie, Carlene, RoseMarie, Nancy, Sue, Jan, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Pat, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah. Grant them patience in their afflictions and trust in your wisdom; strengthen their hope as they look forward to the final healing that awaits all your children at the day of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we rejoice in all your blessings, especially the blessing of life on earth and eternal life to come. Bless and be with the Osell family as they celebrate Dmitry's 30th birthday. Grant us thankfulness for all your blessings. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Great I AM, source of all life, send your Holy Spirit to those who mourn the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the promise of your Son, that as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy One, your Son invites us to share together at this altar the priceless gift of His body and blood that won our forgiveness on Calvary's tree and promises us a share in His resurrection life. Cast away from us all unbelief and fill us with faith to welcome Him, hear

and heed His words, and receive a share in the eternal inheritance.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: These things and everything else you know that we need, grant to us, Father, for the sake of your only Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, the Lamb of God, we pray, Take all our sin away.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, we pray, Grant us your peace this day.

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(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #610 "Lord Jesus, Think On Me"

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

HYMN #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

HYMN #537 "Beautiful Savior"

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shine purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, that with the blood-bought freedom that is ours, we freely give to others the grace we have now received; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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.

CLOSING HYMN #965 “God Bless Our Native Land”

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Children’s Message
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Noah Kegley
Jodi Drew, Cassy Barry
Riley Zacharias, Luna Ramos
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince

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