



Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

July 4 & 5, 2020



My coun-try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing: Land where my fa - thers di-

Celebrate Freedom!

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free“

-Galatians 5:1



From ev - ery moun - tain - side Let free - dom ring!

AS WE GATHER

When our country celebrates the gift of freedom, it is fitting that the Church joins in thanksgiving for the freedom that we have as a nation and as Christians. St. Paul writes that "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." (*Galatians 5:1*) Our freedom -- freedom from the curse of sin through the merits of Jesus Christ and freedom to worship and serve our God -- is a gift from God. Because of the gracious promises of God kept by our Lord, Jesus Christ, we have reason to rejoice and give thanks: our hope is sure!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"



WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"God of Our Fathers" (sung by the soloist)

*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 Thy throne arise.*

*Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night, to never ending day;
Fill all our lives, with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.*

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FREEDOM TO WORSHIP

Please stand

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 67

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us,
that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

People: **May the people praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You.**

Pastor: May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and
guide the nations of the earth.

People: **May the people praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise You.**

Pastor: Then the land will yield its harvest and God, our God, will bless us.

People: **God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: Let us pray. God of the nations, guide Your people by Your Spirit that our nation, in harmony with all the nations of the earth, may set an example of justice and freedom. Give us whatever outward prosperity may be Your will. Above all things give us faith in You, that our nation may bring glory to Your name and blessings to all peoples throughout the world; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: In praise and thanksgiving to God for the freedom to worship, we confess our faith together:

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

HYMN

"Before You, Lord, We Bow" (sung by the soloist)

*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.*

*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.*

FREEDOM FROM TYRANNY

A PRAYER OF FOR OUR NATION

Pastor: Lord, hear our prayer.

People: and let our cry come unto You.

Pastor: For our country,

People: That You would preserve it at all times, whether in peril, peace, or prosperity.

Pastor: For our President,

People: For all who counsel him, and all elected leaders, that You would direct and protect them from all evil.

Pastor: For all our people,

People: That You would foster in their hearts love for that which is true and right.

Pastor: For those in the Armed Forces of our nation,

People: That You would grant them Your protection and keep them close to You even though they often serve far from home.

Pastor: For our nation,

People: For those in need of any kind; those in poverty or riches, in sickness or in health, the young and the old, for all people everywhere, that through the Holy Spirit, they may be driven to repentance and faith in You, the only true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

FROM OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

“America the Beautiful”

setting by Charles Callahan

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

- Continental Congress, “Declaration of Independence” July 4, 1776

“I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in His holy protection; that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

- George Washington, “Circular Letter to the Governors of the States” June 14, 1783

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and the healthful skies. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.

- Abraham Lincoln, “Proclamation of Thanksgiving” October 3, 1863

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:1-9

(Submission to the authorities)

¹ Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ 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 he will commend you. ⁴ For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace, that by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"God Bless Our Native Land" (sung by the soloist)

*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!*

FREEDOM TO SERVE

Please stand

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all 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.

People: **We thank You for enabling us to worship You in freedom and to serve You without fear.**

Pastor: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of the forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science. Look with favor upon this nation, this state, and this community.

People: **Preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice.**

Pastor: Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

People: **Give us willing hearts to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.**

Pastor: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvest.

People: **Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.**

Pastor: Strengthen the homes of our nation.

People: **By Your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibilities, and children to show respect.**

Pastor: We lay before Your throne of grace, Lord God, the needs of Your people. We pray for the sick, the dying, the troubled of mind and spirit.

People: **Grant them wholeness and faithfulness through Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: When times are prosperous let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail.

People: **Give to us the desire to live in Christian love and to use the blessing of our freedom to serve You and Your people.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

People: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-14

(Use your freedom to serve one another in love)

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

HYMN

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (sung by the soloist)

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.*

2 *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.*

3 *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.*

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.*

FREEDOM FROM SIN

SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-36

(If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed)

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Please stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Great is the nation whose God is the Lord

People: **Happy are those who dwell in that land.**

Pastor: Strong is the country that follows His will.

People: **Freedom and liberty abound within its borders.**

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;

People: **According to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.**

Pastor: Wash away all my iniquity

People: **And cleanse me from my sin.**

Pastor: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

People: **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

People: **have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(5:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. only)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As we celebrate the gift of freedom in Christ, go now with His blessing:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

964 Lift Every Voice and Sing

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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POSTLUDE

Variations on "America"

Charles E. Ives

Serving at Chapel

Worship Leader:	Theodore Laesch
Instrumentalists:	Bud Shultz, clarinet Nate Laesch, trumpet Ellory Glenn, bass guitar
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer
Singer:	Ellory Glenn

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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Chapel of the Cross – Lutheran
11645 Benham Road
St. Louis, MO 63136
Phone: 314-741-3737
Web: www.chapelofthecross.org