

As We Gather: The psalmist writes, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Our worship today, as always, centers on God’s Word and Sacrament. But today, it is framed by our prayers and celebrations of freedom as we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is not only that document that speaks of freedom and equality. We also focus on what God has to say in the Bible about these topics. In our freedom to worship, we come before God with thanks for our great national heritage, penitence for our national sins, and prayers for our national prosperity and peace.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

The National Anthem

O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say, does the Star spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and home of the brave?

Text: Francis S. Key • Tune: John S. Smith • Public Domain

The Pledges of Allegiance (United States Flag & Christian 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.

I pledge allegiance to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the faith for which it stands; one Savior, eternal, with mercy and grace for all.

Prayer For The Nation

P Lord God almighty, “whose eyes keep watch on the nations,” (*Psalm 66:7b*) give to the leaders and all citizens of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of compassion, that we may use our liberty to work for peace within our borders and among all the nations, according to Your gracious will; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Chimes

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

Hymn of Invocation “Before You, Lord, We Bow” #966

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution Page 184-185

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit^① *Psalm 121:5-8; antiphon: Psalm vv. 1-2*



P I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?

C My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

P The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade at your | right hand.

C The sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.

P The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
He will | keep your life.

C The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

P I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?

C My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

Gloria Patri^② and Kyrie^③Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis^④Pages 187-189

① “Introit” is pronounced “in-troh-it” – it is Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses.

② “Gloria Patri” is Latin for “Glory be to the Father” which is acclamation of praise at the conclusion of the Introit.

③ “Kyrie” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“Lord, have mercy”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *St. Matthew 15:22*

④ “Gloria in Excelsis” is Latin for “Glory To God In The Highest” is based on the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

Salutation and Collect of the Day^①Page 189

P [♪] Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of Your Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] Amen.

Old Testament Reading **Lamentations 3:22-33**

[It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.]

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;

let him put his mouth in the dust—there may yet be hope;

let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not cast off forever,

but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. (ESV)

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual^② *Rom. 11:33, 36*

P Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

P For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle **2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15**

[St. Paul urges the Corinthian congregation generously to support the ministry of the Gospel.]

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you— see that you excel in this act of grace also.

① The “**Salutation**” (greeting) is reminiscent of an Old Testament greeting recorded in *Ruth 2:4*. The “**Collect**” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

② “**Gradual**” comes from the Latin “*gradus*” meaning ‘step’. In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.” (ESV)

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and VersePage 190

P [♪] The LORD is good to those who | wait for him,*
to the soul who | seeks him. *Lam 3:25*

Gospel AcclamationsPages 190-191

Holy + Gospel^① **St. Mark 5:21-43**

[Jesus heals. Jairus waits.]

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet

and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’ “ And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (ESV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** [♪] **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene CreedPage 191

^① In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day **“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old” #846 (G)**

Sermon **“Free to Be Equal” 2 Corinthians 8:1–9,13–15**

- 1. The _____
- 2. The _____
- 3. The _____

A Matter of Importance:

Please Note: *If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read **Communion Information** in the bulletin .*

Offering and Attendance Registration

Your Preparation for the Sacrament

“Father, I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, as my Savior from sin. I repent of my sins and ask Your forgiveness. I believe the Risen Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His True Body and Blood. In accordance with the pure doctrine taught at this altar, I dedicate myself anew to You regular worship, study of Your Word, faithful witness and loving service. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, make this my conviction and intention. Amen.”

“Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire Your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to Your altar. I am unworthy, but You have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through Your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; Your word is true. I do not doubt it. Let Your will be done. Amen.”^①

Other prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book.”

Offertory^② ~ *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Pages 191-193

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mercy.** or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **Hear our prayer.**

^①“Luther’s Prayers,” ed. Herbert F. Brokering, Augsburg Publishing House, © 1994 Augsburg Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

^②The “**Offertory**” is a hymn from Psalm 51 which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first “*given [ourselves] to the Lord*” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface and Sanctus^① Pages 194-195

Lord's Prayer, the Words of Our Lord^②, and Pax Domini^③ Pages 196-197

Agnus Dei^④ Page 198

The Distribution

Communicants are ushered forward by rows. ***Please receive the host upon an open palm.*** The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. ***Please tip the base of the chalice yourself*** to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.

Distribution Hymns “Jesus Comes Today with Healing” #620
“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” #722

Nunc Dimittis^⑤ ~ *Song of Simeon*..... Pages 199-200

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect Pages 200-201

Salutation, Benedicamus^⑥ and Benediction..... Pages 201-202

Hymn of Departure..... “God Bless Our Native Land” [Tune #965]

P God has established the earthly powers that be for the ordering of society, sometimes called the “Kingdom of God’s Left Hand.” We ask His grace and mercy on this great land in which we live. But we also live in God’s “Kingdom of His Right Hand,” where He rules over us in grace and mercy, for the sake of Christ, our King. Let us join our hearts and voices to sing our thankful prayers to God for His continued blessings in both realms.

¹ 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.



① “Sanctus” is Latin for “Holy.” This Hymn is based on *Isaiah 6:3* & *St. Matthew 21:9*

② These are the very Words of Christ which make the elements of bread and wine a sacrament. Our Confessions state “When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament” (*Large Catechism*, v.10).

③ “*The Peace of the Lord*” – The purpose of the Pax is a declaration that the peace that passes all understanding is here present in the body and blood of Christ. For this reason the Celebrant now lifts the Chalice and Host.

④ “Agnus Dei” (pronounced ‘ahn-yoos day-ee’) is Latin for “Lamb of God”

⑤ “Nunc Dimittis” is Latin for ‘now depart.’ Simeon first sang this hymn of thanksgiving as recorded in *St. Luke 2:29-32*.

⑥ “Benedicamus” is Latin for ‘bless we.’

² **O Christ, our holy Lord,
O all-subduing word, Healer of strife:
Thou didst Thyself abase That from sin's deep disgrace
Thou mightest save our race And give us life.**

³ **Thou art the great High Priest;
Thou hast prepared the feast Of holy love;
And in our mortal pain None calls on Thee in vain;
Help Thou dost not disdain; Help from above.**

⁴ **Ever be Thou our guide,
Our shepherd, and our pride, Our staff and song.
Jesus, Thou Christ of God, By Thine enduring Word
Lead us where Thou hast trod; Make our faith strong.**

⁵ **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!**

Text: St. 1: Charles T. Brooks, 1813-83, alt.; Sts. 2-4: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170-c. 220;
tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821-90, alt.; St.5: John S. Dwight, 1813-93, alt. Public domain
Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM, Thesaurus Musicus, London, c. 1740. Public domain

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

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

WORSHIP THOUGHTS

Though it is fitting that we use the Narthex to greet one another and especially welcome visitors before the worship begins, it is also important that we take quiet time to prepare ourselves for worship once entering the Sanctuary. Plan, if possible, to arrive early enough to scan through the bulletin so you are acquainted with any changes for this Sunday.

As you come to worship, take some time to pray for the pastor and for others participating in the worship service today. Listen to the Prelude, which is not mere background music, but an invitation for all to give attention to God's Word and prayer.

Are you familiar with the hymns we are singing today? Please take a few moments to read through the words of each hymn, especially those that appear new to you.

If you make the sign of the cross (✠) during worship, it is done in remembrance of Baptism. When we were baptized, the sign of the cross was made on our heart and head to signify that we belonged to Christ. This is our present identity. The making of the sign of the cross (✠) during worship is an act of devotion that dates back to the third century A.D. It is very much a Christian practice, not limited to any one particular denomination.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!



COMMUNION INFORMATION: Bethlehem is an orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation. Following the teaching of God's Word, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a mere symbol, but that in the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Through this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of those who come to the Lord's Supper coming in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:25-19), that is, coming in an attitude of repentance, recognizing the bread and wine as the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus, and firmly believing Christ and his words that this is given for the forgiveness of sins. We also recognize that the Lord's Supper is also an outward sign of doctrinal unity. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of unity within the body of believers who receive this sacrament (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). For these reasons and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings about the Lord's Supper, we ask that **all guests please speak to the Pastor prior to approaching the Altar.** All communicants are asked to sign the Registration sheet in the Narthex.

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Roland Felder and in celebration of our nation's freedom and for all who have served this great country!!

THE AMERICAN FLAGS in front of the Church commemorating Independence Day are flying by the donations of the following: Rev & Peggy Adler, Jim & Neva Broad, Gil & Mary Lou Daughtrey, Mike & Sheila Flynn, Juanita Garcia, Albert & Yanneth Harris, Ray & Donna Hughes, Devin & Melanie Jackson, Lea Rosier, Paul & Jo Ann Tugwell and Steve & Mary Unk (Cost for renewal is \$45 per flag.)

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our theme this summer is **Delivered: God's Gift of Grace.** These consist of all New Testament lessons. Please prayerfully consider leading a Sunday School class this summer. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Jackson.

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON "Ananias Baptizes Saul," students will learn how God helps them live as His children. Your conversation about the lesson could include, "Why was Ananias concerned about going to see Saul? Why is it sometimes difficult for you to talk with others about your faith in Jesus?"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Job: Constancy in Calamity" -- Why do the just suffer? Where is God in the midst of loss, illness, ridicule and defeat? In this informative study we will also consider the purpose of adversity in the lives of the faithful and the role of Satan regarding our relationship with God.

PRAYER CHAIN: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate in the prayer chain.

NEWSLETTER –The **JUNE/JULY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

DID YOU FORGET? If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, New Small Lutheran Catechism book or Easter lilies, please contact the church office. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for July through September are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

FROM THE YOUTH: We are collecting new or gently used towels for BARC, Anderson County's Humane Society. Questions? Please see Yanneth Harris.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? If you are traveling and you would rather not attend an LC-MS church where there is no historic liturgy and hymnody ... visit lutheranliturgy.org to find an orthodox and liturgical congregation to visit.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: St. Mark 4:40 – "He said to them, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?' " Faith means trust. If we trust the Lord, what do we have to be afraid of? Isn't it fear that holds us back in our stewardship? Isn't it fear that stops us from following the Lord's Word to give generously toward His work in the Church? Well ... "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" The Lord has proved His trustworthiness by His cross. You can trust Him.

LIFE QUOTES: "When we see the young woman in a crisis pregnancy ... vulnerable, helpless, feeling destined to make only one choice—we are compelled to speak and defend and help because it is the Christ thing to do ... We lift her up and offer Christ's compassion in real, practical ways." Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: We often find ourselves fearful about something in life. It would appear as though we awaken to a new fear every day. When facing a fear, we wonder how to cope with it and finally solve it. Jesus reminds us, "Do not fear, only believe." It is by faith in Jesus that we live each and every day of our lives on earth. With Jesus, we no longer live in fear, but in faith!

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$3146.25	Sunday School	36
[<u>Needed per week</u>]	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	53
Building Fund	\$.00		
[<u>Needed per week</u>]	\$350.00]		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; St. Mark 6:1-13.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (07/01)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Pentecost 6 [Proper 8] Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion Jessica Bowden Aaron Jackson Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Burl Gruetzner Evangelism Board
Thursday – Sunday (07/5-8) Sunday (07/08)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	LWML Texas District Convention, Waco, Tx Pentecost 7 [Proper 9] Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion Christopher Harris Sylvia Frenzel Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Burl Gruetzner LWML Meeting

N THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita’s son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan’s nephew]

Health needs - Members: Sheila Flynn (6/24), **Sylvia Frenzel** (7/1), Albert Harris, George Nelson; Julie Schoppe

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Christopher Harris ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Neva Broad, Debbie Gruetzner, Brian Koehler, Kyle Lawson

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

