

O beautiful for
spacious skies, for
amber waves of
grain



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 6, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“God Bless America”

George Brown

OPENING DIALOGUE

P We gather in the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P On July 4, 1776, our forefathers, with the support of courageous foremothers, bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring that a group of states and commonwealths found on this continent should become their own nation, governing itself and containing representation of its people. The declaration was for the citizens of this new nation were to be given independence and sovereignty and that they possessed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness given by our Creator. It is appropriate therefore as we celebrate our nation's 249th birthday that we give thanks to that Creator for our liberties and pray for continued blessings upon our country, our government and our fellow citizens.

P The earth is the Lord's,

C **And all who dwell in it.**

P God is king over the nations:

C **God sits on his holy throne.**

P The Lord rules by holy might forever.

C **God's eyes keep watch on the nations.**

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C **For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.**

P O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,

C And make your face to shine upon us.

P May your ways be known upon the earth,

C Your saving power among all peoples.

P Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Holy Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things, give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN *“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”*

LBW (green) #566

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P O God, the Father in Heaven,

C have mercy on us.

P O God, the Son, Redeemer of the World,

C have mercy on us.

P O God, the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy upon us.

P O Christ, merciful Savior, hear us in this hour as we worship you:

C O Christ, visit us with your compassion.

P For our sins by which we have grieved you;
for the ways in which we forget your steadfast love;
for our indifference to the gospel and the witness of your church;
for our apathy toward your call to faith;
for our failure to see the spiritual needs of those around us:

C we beg your forgiveness, O Lord.

P O Christ, listen as we pray to you.

C O Christ, forgive us.

P That our nation may remember you
as the God of mercy and truth;
that the fulfillment of your will may be our desire;
that we may be healed from the motives of greed and revenge;
that we may discover through you a deeper experience of prayer;
that we may offer unselfish devotion to the well-being of our nation;

that you would uphold and guide our president
that you would humble and unite congress;
that you would give wisdom and the goal of justice
to the supreme court;
that you would defend and preserve our soldiers, sailors, and air force;
and that all our people may seek courage and a spirit of endurance:

C we ask your help, O Lord.

P To comfort those under the constant strain of apprehension;
to remember those in captivity;
to bind up the wounded, sheltering them under your care;
to stretch out your arm
to all who are lonely, tempted, or discouraged;
to have mercy upon all who trust in you:

C we ask this, O Lord.

P To hasten the day of peace in all nations;
to cast away the threads of hate;
to forgive our enemies;
to scatter any who delight in violence;
and to renew steadfast faith within us:

C hear us, good Lord, and receive our prayer.

P Help us to remember we live in your grace that
we may serve and know your forgiveness always.

**C Thank you for your forgiveness
and continue to heal us, O God. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God,

**C As we celebrate the birth of our country, you call all nations to come
under your rule. Aid us in serving you, neighbor, and country in our
lives. Open our eyes to see our communities and sharing your gracious
will with all that we meet. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

¹⁰ Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,

all you who love her;

rejoice with her in joy,

all you who mourn over her—

¹¹ that you may nurse and be satisfied

from her consoling breast;

that you may drink deeply with delight

from her glorious bosom.

¹² For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river,

and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,

and dandled on her knees.

¹³ As a mother comforts her child,

so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;

your bodies shall flourish like the grass;

and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,

and his indignation is against his enemies.

P Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM: Psalm 66:1-9

¹ Be joyful in God, all you lands;
be joyful, all the earth.

² **Sing the glory of God's name;
sing the glory of God's praise.**

³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

⁴ **All the earth bows down before you,
sings to you, sings out your name."**

⁵ Come now and see the works of God,
how awesome are God's deeds toward all people.

⁶ **God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water
on foot, and there we rejoiced in God.**

⁷ Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations;
let no rebels exalt themselves.

⁸ **Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.**

⁹ Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

[¹ My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]
⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

P Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God!**

P We hunger to hear the Word of God!

C **Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’ ”

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸ He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LBW (green) #562

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Drawn into the embrace of the Holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

P You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of (*Jan Hus and*) all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of (*local natural beauty and*) all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain (*especially*). Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

P Gathered into one in the body of Christ, we pray as our Lord taught,
C **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.

HOLY COMMUNION

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

LBW (green) #509

“My Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

LBW (green) #332

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P Christ who nourished us with his body and blood, bless us now and forever.
C **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask or even imagine.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world
with the eternal life you have given us.
In your name we pray.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The blessing of God the Father Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *“God Bless our Native Land”* LBW (green) #569

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *“American Trilogy”* Butch Hengst



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