

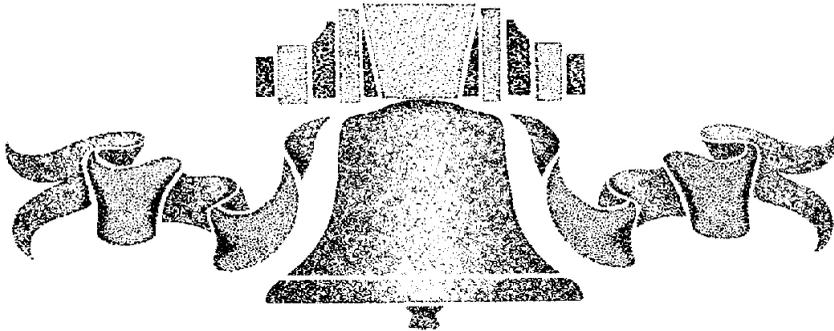
# *“Truly Free”*

A Celebration of God’s Blessings on Our Nation

July 4, 2021

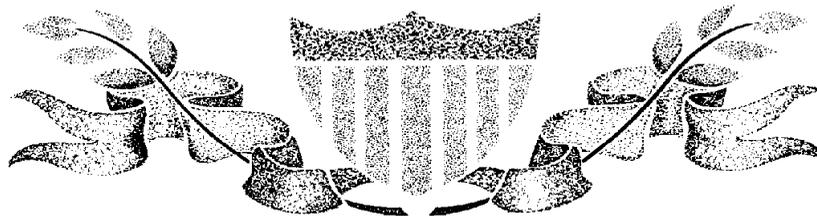
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Fargo, ND



**Proclaim liberty  
throughout the land  
to all its inhabitants.**

Leviticus 25:10



*Today our nation rejoices in the freedom won by our founding fathers. More importantly, we gather in faith to thank God for what He has done for us; we are also citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are therefore free to go to Him, praying for peace for ourselves, our nation, and the world. Because of the gracious promises of God kept by our Lord Jesus Christ, we have reason to rejoice; our hope is sure!*

**Opening Hymn “Before You, Lord, We Bow”**

(LSB 966)

- 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.**
- 3 **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.**
- 4 **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.**
- 5 **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!**

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**+ The Lord Comes to His People in the Power of His Name +**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. *Galatians 6:1*

**C: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Galatians 6:14*

**+ The Lord Forgives Our Sins +**

P: God has promised forgiveness and peace for all who come to Him, trusting in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus on their behalf. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we have not sought the peace You offer for the sake of Christ, nor have we always sought peace with our brothers and sisters. We repent for our thoughts, words, and deeds that come between us and You and that separate us from the people around us. Forgive us, renew in us Your peace that the world cannot give, and help us to “not grow weary of doing good.”**

P: "The kingdom of God has come near to you" (*Luke 10:9*). In His great mercy, God has promised to "extend peace...like a river" (*Isaiah 66:12*). As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority alone, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live in the joy of His forgiveness and in the strength of His peace.

C: **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn of Praise**      *"When Peace, like a River"*      (*LSB 763, vv 1-3*)

1    **When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain**

Refrain **It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

2    **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain**

3    **He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain**

Text: Public domain

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray to the Lord.

C: **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. Amen.**

**Prayer for the Nation**

P: Lord God almighty, whose eyes keep watch on the nations" *Psalm 66:7b*

C: **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. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## + The Lord Speaks to Us in His Holy Word +

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 34:4-16*

R: The Old Testament Reading for today is from Exodus, chapter thirty-four.

So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

“Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading

*Hebrews 12:18-29*

R: The Epistle Reading is from Hebrews, chapter twelve.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things

that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

*(LSB 427, vv 1-2)*

**In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

*(please rise)*

**Holy Gospel**

*John 8:28-36*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in 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 commits 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Creed (8:15) *Nicene Creed; (11) Apostles’ Creed***

*(LSB inside back cover)*

*(Please be seated)*

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal” (LSB 533)**

**1 Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,  
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;  
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!**

- 2 **Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!**  
**Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.**  
**See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!**  
**He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,**  
**Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.**  
**Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!**
- 3 **Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.**  
**See now the threatening strong one disarmed!**  
**Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,**  
**Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.**  
**Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!**  
**Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!**
- 4 **Jesus has come as the King of all glory!**  
**Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,**  
**Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;**  
**Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!**  
**Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!**  
**Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!**

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**Sermon**

*"Truly Free"*

*John 8:28-36*

**+ The Lord Hears our Prayers +**

**Prayers of the Church**

**We Worship the Lord with our Tithes and Offerings**

*Includes Special Music: "America," arr. by Gary R. Smoke*

*(Please **sign and pass** the green book found at the center end of each pew.)*

*(11 am service continues on page 8)*

**+ The Lord Delivers His Gifts to Us in His Holy Supper (8:15 only) +**

**P:** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

**C:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in Your love for mankind gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Himself and to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. Gathered in His name and in the communion of all saints, we pray that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we

pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Words of Jesus as He Instituted His Holy Supper

### Pax Domini

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

*John 20:19*

**C: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

### Distribution Hymns

*Includes Special Music: "Lift Every Voice and Sing," (LSB 964)*

**"The Lamb"**

**LSB 547**

**"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"**

**LSB 620**

**"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"**

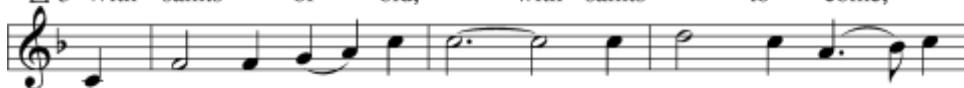
**LSB 622**

### General Dismissal (Please rise)

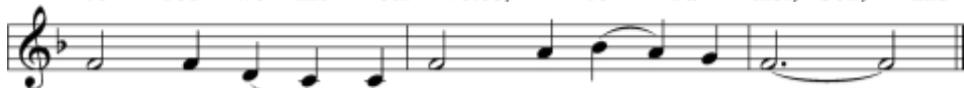
### Hymn of Thanksgiving "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" (LSB 937)



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

**C: for His steadfast love endures forever.**

*(Psalm 118:1)*

P: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have strengthened us through this Sacrament. And we pray that we may show forth our faith as we live out each day in our families, communities, and nation. Grant us and Your Church around the world to proclaim the coming of Your kingdom through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**+ The Lord Places His Blessing Upon His People +**

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.

**C: 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. We therefore join our hearts and voices to sing our thankful prayers to God for His continued blessings in both realms.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon each of you with His favor, and give you His peace.

**C: Amen. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Closing Hymn “God Bless Our Native Land”**

*(LSB 965, vv 1-4)*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

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