

Star Spangled Banner

Δ1 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 that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P On this day of celebration of our national freedom and remembrance of those who fought and worked to sustain it, we also celebrate the freedom from the darkness of sin and death that God gave us through His Son, Jesus Christ. We also remember that He sustains us in that freedom through the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

P God has blessed us so generously. We are living in America in the twenty-first century. But, just as our national and spiritual forbearers, we have not thought, spoken, or acted in thankfulness and praise. For Jesus' sake, though, there is abundant grace and forgiveness. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we are sinful by nature and that in life we have ignored Your many blessings in this land of promise. We have taken our lot in life as a deserved benefit and let our pride cover our faults and failings. We have been content to receive the freedom and prosperity of this land without giving You thanks and praise. We have failed to share Your bounty with those in our society less fortunate

than ourselves, preferring to put our own comfort before our brothers' urgent needs. We have let the morality of the society around us speak louder than Your Word and will for us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Turn our hearts to Your will and our eyes to Your eternal promises. Open doors of opportunity in which we may reflect Your truth, mercy, and love in our sojourn until we enter the eternal Promised Land.

P Our Lord Jesus took all our sins with Him to the cross. The Father accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. By His death Christ destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored us to everlasting life. In the mercy of almighty God, all who die in faith will enter the Promised Land of heaven. 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.

C Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag

C I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the cross for which it stands – one Savior eternal, with mercy and grace for all. So help me God!

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

C 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.

God Bless America

1 God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You for the freedom we have in You and also the freedom we celebrate today in our nation. As Your grace has been sufficient for Your people throughout all time, grant that it be sufficient for us as well for Your power is made perfect in our weaknesses; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–7

Battle Hymn of the Republic

- 1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.
Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

- 4 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;
While God is marching on.
Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah! While God is marching on.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

(Tune: LSB 965)

- 1 My country 'tis of thee Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side Let freedom ring.

- 4 Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

LSB 821

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

- 4 Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.

- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Sermon

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin

Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering & Rite of Friendship

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LSB 805

Δ1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

☩ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

America, The Beautiful

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.
- 3 O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife;
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine.
- 4 O beautiful for patriot dream, That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

God of Our Fathers

- 1 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 Your throne arise.
- 2 Your love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by You our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, Your paths our chosen way.

- 3 From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence
Make Your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
- 4 Refresh Your people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to neverending day;
Fill all our lives with heav'nborn love and grace
Until at last we meet before Your face.

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!

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
- C** His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray.

We thank You, Lord, for You have again fed and nourished us on our way through this world to the one to come. Guide us in living out Your grace until that day when we experience it in all of its fullness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

God Bless Our Native Land

LSB 965

- 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.
- 2 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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