

The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SERVICE July 2, 2023

# Song and Service Book for Ship and Field United States Army and Navy United States Government Printing Office Washington 1942

#### **PRELUDE**

"America, the Beautiful"

arr. J. Head & S. Mitchell-Wallace

#### **OPENING HYMN**



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

One thing have I desired of the Lord; that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, to uphold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.

For in the time of trouble shall He hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me.

How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts.

My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of God.

Thus says the Lord, the hour is coming and now is here when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for such does the Father seek after to worship Him.

Our feet shall stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem.

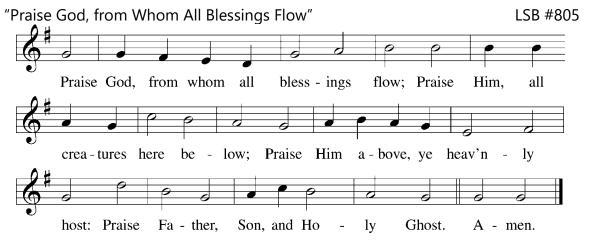
This is the house of the Lord; this is none other than the gates of heaven.

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

# **PRAYER OF GENERAL CONFESSION** (spoken in unison)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

## **DOXOLOGY**



(God Stands Over All Nations)

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. <sup>6</sup>The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our fortress. <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** Romans 13:1-7

# (Honor Authority)

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 10:34-39

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Not Peace but a Sword)

<sup>34</sup>[Jesus said:] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother

more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

#### **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.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**



# **SERMON**

"Peace in Our Time"

Matthew 10:34-39

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer



**OFFERING** 

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

**VOLUNTARY** 

#### WASHINGTON'S PRAYER FOR THE NATION

~written at Newburg, June 8, 1783, and sent to the Governors of all the States~

#### 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.

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### PEACE OF THE LORD

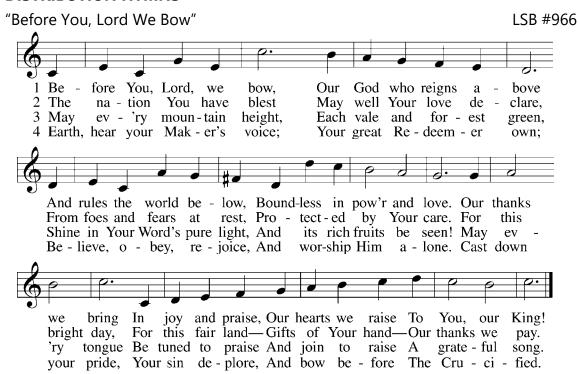
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~Please be seated for the Distribution~

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**



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!

# **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** (continued)

"My Country Tis of Thee"

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 mountainside Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I live;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song: Let mortal tongues awake, Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

## "America the Beautiful"

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!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A throughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

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!

# **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** (continued)

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!

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

O Lord, support us all day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then of Thy great mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### + FLAG PRESENTATION +

# **BENEDICTION**

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.

Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

# **POSTLUDE**

"My Country 'Tis of Thee"

arr. J. Head & S. Mitchell-Wallace



We thank musicians, Jim Zigara & Steve Roberts, for sharing their talents with us this morning.





201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216 Church office: 205-823-1883 PreSchool/MDO: 205-791-5200

> Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



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ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



<u>TO OUR GUESTS:</u> We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> Adult Bible Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes will resume in the Fall.



<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY</u> Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary after the sermon. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



<u>COMMUNION</u> We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in individual cups; please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing