

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ July 5, 2020

***WELCOME!** Thank God for our nation! The celebration of Independence Day is not part of the traditional Church Year calendar. Rather, it is a national celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of our land. In observing the day, we are connected with the biblical record of God's people in times past who expressed thanks for the blessings that God had given to them through the nation of which they were part. The psalmist writes, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 33:12). As we bring our thankful praise to God, we ask that His blessing on our land would continue for generations.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE 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 INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

- C:** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

THE KYRIE

- P:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P:** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P:** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P:** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C: Lord, have mercy.
- P:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P:** The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
- P:** Let us pray. Lord of time and God of history, we ask You to keep our nation and its leaders under Your care. It is by Your grace and blessing alone that we can know peace and freedom. Direct and lead us to live justly with our neighbors, peaceably in our communities, and joyfully in our land, seeking the common good. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
All: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE—"God of Our Fathers"

Tune: LW #501

- 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 never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace
Until at last we meet before Your face.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Micah 4:1-5, ESV

The prophet Micah encourages the people to walk in the name of the Lord forever.

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING – Romans 13:1-7, ESV

The apostle Paul instructs the Christians in living a Christ-like life in the civil realm.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN – “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”**LSB 892**

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God’s own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 22:15-22, ESV

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap [Jesus] in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.**THE HYMN – “Battle Hymn of the Republic”***Tune: Battle Hymn*

- 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 has 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!
- 2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before the judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. Glory, glory...

- 3 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 live to make men free,
While God is marching on. Glory, glory...

THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “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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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠