

# INDEPENDENCE DAY

## Freedom in Christ

June 29,

July 2 & 3, 2022

### AS WE GATHER

As we again celebrate our nation's independence, we will hear much about freedom. As citizens, we give thanks for the blessings we have and for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties. Yet as Christians, we do not need an annual holiday to recognize true freedom. Daily we hold fast to the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price has been paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we may have freedom from sin, eternal death, and the devil. Today we hear the Spirit-inspired words of the apostle Paul in Galatians and learn more about what real freedom is, receiving guidance for lives lived in that freedom and the fruits freely given to us through the Holy Spirit.

### WELCOME

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices 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." John 8: 34-36

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✂ PREPARATION ✂

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✂ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** For freedom Christ has set us free;

**People:** stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**Pastor:** Walk by the Spirit,

**People:** and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Pastor:** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

#### OPENING HYMN #717 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Stanza 1

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

**Pastor:** And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

#### HYMN #717 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Stanza 2

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain  
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,  
Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev'ry peril on the land.

**Pastor:** And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven.  
And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev'ry peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them where-soe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Eternal Father, strong to save, in the beginning you created all things good: the sea, the land, the air, the creatures in their rightful place, and the crown of your creation, humanity, which was very good and intended for a perfect relationship with you. Sin stained the perfect world, and because of that we come to you in confession of our faults and failings.

People: **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.**

Pastor: Our eternal Father is strong to save and has done that in giving His only-begotten Son into this once-perfect world. Jesus is the only needed sacrifice for our sins so we and all creation may be renewed, redeemed, and restored in relationship with Him. 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: For freedom Christ has set us free;

People: **stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

Pastor: Walk by the Spirit,

People: **and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; your holy name, we sing  
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To you, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, you take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where you in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For you alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. God of all nations, we thank you for our free land and the liberties we treasure. Guide your people by your Spirit that this nation may set an example to the world of justice and freedom. From the blessings of the past to the present, grant all future prosperity according to your will. Give all peoples of all lands and nations faith in you that glory may be brought to your name and eternal blessings to all people throughout your created world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Deuteronomy 8:7–18* (Remember the Lord while living in the land.)

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup>And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. <sup>11</sup>“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup>lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup>who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. <sup>17</sup>Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ <sup>18</sup>You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Galatians 5:1, 13–25* (Freedom in Christ and life by the Spirit)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires

of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 5:43–48* (Love for enemies)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**“Rejoice in the Lord Always”** AGPS #203

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice. (repeat song)

## SERMON HYMN #965 “God Bless Our Native Land”

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.

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!

## SERMON “Freedom in America and Freedom in Christ” Galatians 5:1, 13-25

(Rise)

### NICENE CREED

**People:** 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.

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

## COMMISSIONING OF NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANTS (Sunday)

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us join our hearts and minds in prayer, approaching the throne of God's grace.

O Lord of the harvest, at your Son's instruction we pray that you would continue to send laborers into your vineyard, that the plentiful harvest may be gathered into the peace of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord of the nations, we pray for our United States of America, giving you thanks and praise for the freedoms we enjoy. We rejoice in recent decisions for the protection of life in the womb and supporting the freedom of prayer in public places. Bless our nation, heal our wrongs, and grant all our citizens to love their neighbors and they love themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, you sent Jesus to preach your Word, and He likewise sent forth the apostles and the 72. Grant us faithful pastors who receive your Word with thanksgiving and deliver it without fear, even amidst perils and persecution. Grant them to trust that, in the Lord, their labor is not in vain. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Lord, you are the author of family. Grant our homes to be places in which your peace dwells, that husbands and wives love and honor one another, children are nurtured in fear and faith toward your name, and your kingdom comes among us. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, in this sin-sick world nations engage in violence, injustice and wrongdoing. Protect the peoples of Ukraine and bring an end to the war. Give peace, we pray, to all nations, that all people may enjoy the comforting goodness of your will being done on earth. Hear our prayers on behalf of all who make, administer and judge our laws, and provide opportunities for your Gospel to be proclaimed without hindrance. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father of all, we rejoice with the 28 people from St. Paul's who are heading to the National Youth Gathering along with over 18,000 other youth and adults. Bless them in their journey. Bless them to grow in faith and trust and knowing that Christ is indeed first "In All Things." Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of all compassion, in your Son you have borne the burdens of all mankind. Look with mercy upon Gloria, Janet, Brian, Steve, Brian, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Jim, Vern, Mike, Elaine, Dorothy, Cindy, Don, Shirley, Richard, Helga, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Sarah, Debbie, Steve, Mary, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, and all for whom we pray. According to your gracious will, restore these servants with strength and healing now, and grant them patience to await the resurrection on the Last Day. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Generous Father, keep our hearts from greed, that we may joyfully support your Church and those who serve us in your name. Keep us from pride of heart that delights more in what we do than in what you have done. Accept with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving the tithes and offerings we bring this day. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of Israel, as your people of old drank and were satisfied by your abundant comfort shown to Jerusalem, may we likewise be satisfied to eat and drink of your Son's body and blood, given for our comfort today. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: How awesome are your deeds, O Lord. you have planted us and directed us to pray that you would send workers into your vineyard. You have answered that prayer through your Son and His Church. As your kingdom draws nearer each day, teach us to boast only in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, rejoicing that our names are written in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** 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.

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

#### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

#### PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose power and salvation transcends the nations and kingdoms of the world. Lead us to your heavenly kingdom, where in divine glory and freedom from sin His name is worshiped and glorified. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, with the saints gathered before your throne from every nation, we laud and magnify your glorious name, saying:

#### SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. Even when creation rebelled against you, you gave your only-begotten Son into death that we might be saved and set free from the lasting consequences of sin and eternal death. By your Spirit, prepare our hearts to receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in faith.

**People:** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment.

## PAX DOMINI

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #966 "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

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!

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.

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.

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.

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!

### HYMN #850 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's waring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

### HYMN #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
and Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord,, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

#### COMMON DISMISSAL

#### CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: For freedom Christ has set us free;  
People: **stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**  
Pastor: Walk by the Spirit,  
People: **and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

#### BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.  
People: **Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN “America the Beautiful” W & R #727

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 thoroughfare for 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!

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!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen  
Olivia Kukor