

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

7:45AM &
10:45AM

JULY 4,
2021



Making the
Love of
Christ
Known

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Charlie Frekot
Vicar

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Exhortation and Prayer

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring this nation's independence and sovereignty and that all her citizens possessed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness given by our Creator. It is appropriate therefore as we celebrate our nation's birthday that we give thanks to that Creator for our liberties and pray for continued blessings upon our country, our government and our fellow citizens.

The earth is the Lord's,
And all who dwell in it.

God is king over the nations:
God sits on his holy throne.

He rules by his might forever.
His eyes keep watch on the nations.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.

O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,
And make your face to shine upon us.

May your ways be known upon the earth,
Your saving power among all peoples.

Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things, give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Gathering Hymn

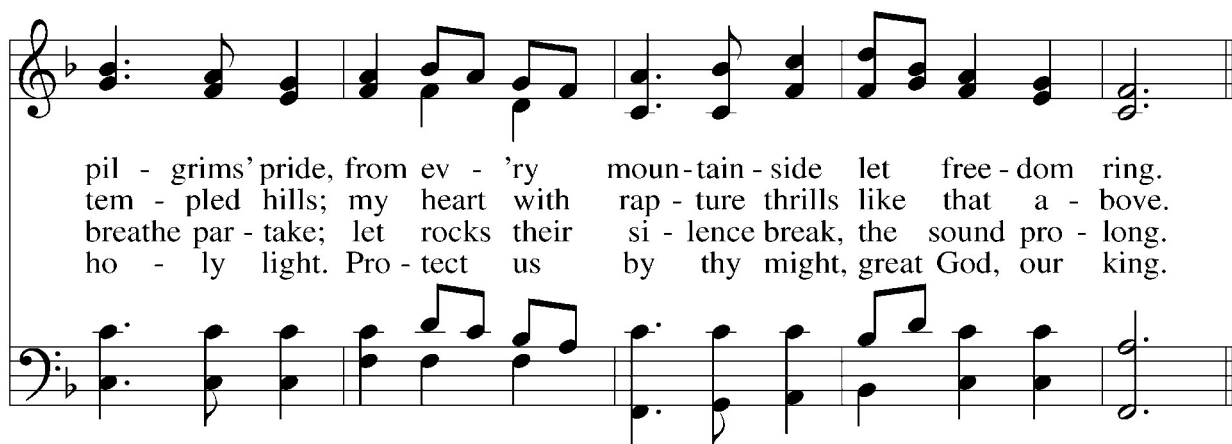
My Country, 'Tis of Thee



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty,



of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free - dom's song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake; let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free - dom's



pil - grims' pride, from ev - 'ry moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light. Pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our king.

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808–1895

Music: NATIONAL ANTHEM. *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744



Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Children's Sermon

Kids' Praise (10:45) *At this time children age 3 - grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.



¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.



The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and
the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show
us your mercy.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

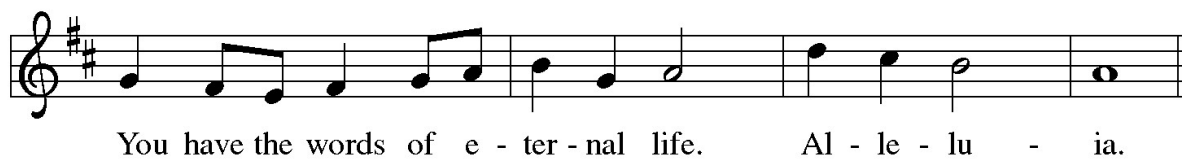
²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my



weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 6th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."

⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The gospel is concluded:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



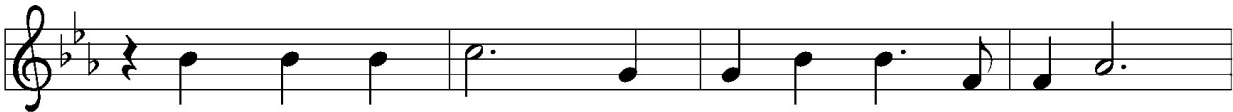
This Is My Song



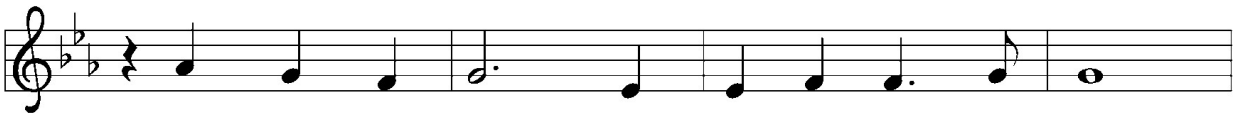
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



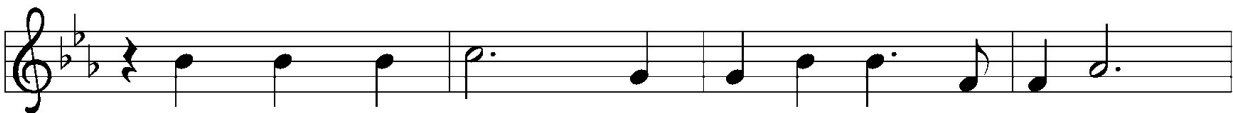
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



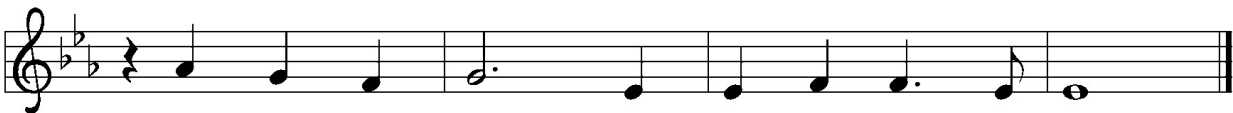
This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.



Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins to God, whose power is made perfect in our weakness.

Holy God, you call us to boldly proclaim your name, yet we are stubborn and rebellious and heedless of your call. By the power of your Spirit, raise us to new life that we may return to faithful living, in Christ's name we pray.

Sisters and brothers, God's grace and mercy are never ending. Your sins are forgiven, therefore be at peace. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our **Prayer**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

Offering

Kids' Praise– *Children return to families during the offering.*

Offertory:

Please stand and sing as the offering is brought forward:

Seek Ye First



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and



righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7; adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
Music: LAFFERTY, Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

Offering Prayer

Holy God, you open the doors of heaven, giving us every generous and perfect gift from above. Lift our eyes from the food that perishes, and nourish us now with the food that endures for eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Eucharistic Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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.

Distribution of Communion

Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.





Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

ELW 838

Beautiful Savior

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Sending Prayer

God, you claim us as your own, call us into community, and gift us
with your Spirit so that we might carry your Word and ways, your
power and presence, throughout the Earth. Help us, we pray, to
be people defined by our mission.

Send us:
to the poor, with good news embodied in just deeds.

Send us:
to those in bondage, not with words that are captivating but with
actions that are liberating.

Send us:
to those without insight, to bring them bright visions and eye-
opening revelations.

Send us:
to the oppressed, with a willingness to bear their burdens and to
take up their causes as our own.

As you send us, keep us in your steadfast care. Remind us wher-
ever you send us that you have called us by name and filled us
with power as wondrously strong as life itself.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

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

Sending Hymn

ELW 890



Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,

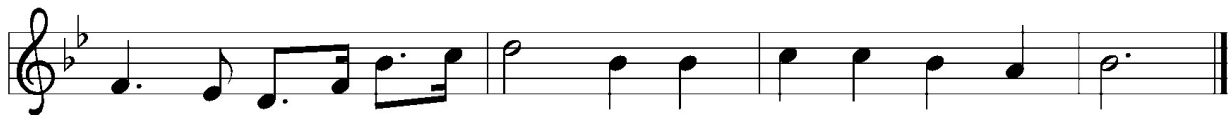


his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
 Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent



Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



