

(10:00) ANTHEM- “My Country ’Tis of Thee” Peace Adult Choir and Handbells

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (8:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:00) (Please see below to prepare.)	
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Words of Institution and Pax Domini	p162
Agnus Dei	p163

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

- I believe that:
- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
 - + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
 - + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
 - + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
 - + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
 - + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:	
• “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”	#717
• Special Music	
• “Christ Be My Leader”	#861
Canticle—Thank the Lord	p164
Post-Communion Collect	p166

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” on screen

THE POSTLUDE

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Celebration of Independence Day
Sunday, July 5, 2026



***WELCOME!** As the fireworks light up the night sky, as sparklers glow in the faces of children, as we picnic during the month of July we remember the gift of our free nation. Yet, the fireworks also remind us that our freedom was won through warfare, and that our nation’s years are brief sparks in history. And so, today, we give thanks for the Kingdom of God—the greater, everlasting Reign of our Father, where we hold our true citizenship—which we pray for when we pray, “Thy Kingdom Come.”*

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE PLEDGES

P: As the people of God in Christ Jesus, we are citizens of two kingdoms of God while on earth: His kingdom of grace (His Church); His kingdom of power (the State). At this time, let us pledge our loyalty to each.

P: The Pledge to the Cross:
C: **I pledge allegiance to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the faith for which it stands: One Savior, King eternal, Jesus Christ, with mercy and grace for all.**

P: The Pledge to the flag of the United States of America:
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.**

THE OPENING HYMN VERSE – “America, America” vs. 1-3 on screen

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
- P: Jesus said, “If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
C: **For freedom Christ has set us free.**
- P: Stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
C: **The truth shall make us free.**
- P: You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love be servants of one another. The whole law is summed up in these two commandments,
C: **You shall love the Lord your God above all; and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his abundant grace.
C: **Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We fail to show gratitude for your grace and gifts. We fail to live as faithful citizens of your kingdom. For the sake of Jesus, for the sake of your steadfast love, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.**

P: God has shed his grace on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. For the sake of Jesus, who died and rose for us, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray.
All: **O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the parent who comforts us. With your Holy Spirit, accompany us on our life’s journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(10:00) ANTHEM- “Blessed Is the Nation” Psalm 33:12, 18-22 Peace Adult Choir

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Zechariah 9:9-12, ESV

In this reading we hear the voice of the prophet Zechariah giving comfort and blessing to the tired and weary people that God had not abandoned them in their sin. God will redeem them and restore them according to His promise.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING – Romans 7:14-25a, ESV

Life enslaved under sin is an existence marked by knowing good but not doing good, and doing things we know to be bad. But through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

[St. Paul wrote:] For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE ALLELUIA

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♪ **Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — Matthew 11:25-30, ESV

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

THE SERMON HYMN – “Before You, Lord, We Bow” vs. 1-3 #966
(Francis Scott Key, who wrote our national anthem, wrote the words to this hymn.)

THE MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Before You , Lord, We Bow” vs. 4-5 #966

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS-
“God Bless Our Native Land” #965

A LITANY FOR OUR NATION

P: Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage.
C: **Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will.**
P: Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life.
C: **Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action.**
P: Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people.
C: **Support us in defending our freedom and liberty, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land.**
P: When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful.
C: **In troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**