



4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 3, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

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Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

Again this year in celebration of our nation's independence, we'll hear much about freedom. As citizens of this land, we give thanks to God for the blessings we have and for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties. Yet as Christians, we don't need an annual holiday to recognize true freedom, because in the Gospel we have the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, earning our eternal freedom from sin, death, and the devil. Today we hear the Spirit-inspired words of the apostle Paul to the Romans and learn more about what true freedom really is.

Prelude

"America the Beautiful" with "Prelude"

by J. Kindermann

Opening Hymn

"America the Beautiful"

K. Bates/S. Ward

(Verse 1 Congregation; Verses 2 & 3 Choir Only; Verse 4 Congregation)

**1. 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.**

*2. O beautiful, for pilgrim feet
whose stern, impassioned stress
a thoroughfare for freedom beat
across the wilderness!*

*America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law!*

*3. 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 ev'ry gain divine!*

**4. 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!**

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Genesis 1:1–10, 20–21

P 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."

C **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.**

P 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.

Confession and Absolution

P Eternal Father, Creator God, in the beginning You made all things good: the sea, the land, the air, the creatures in their rightful place, and the crown of Your creation, humanity, which You declared to be very good, and You intended for us to have a perfect relationship with You. But sin brought an end to the perfect world You created, and because of that we come to You in confession of our faults and failings.

C **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 Our Eternal Father is strong to save and has done that in giving His only-begotten Son into this once-perfect world to be the only necessary sacrifice for our sins, so that 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.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Psalm

Psalm 145:1–9

P I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

C **Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

C **One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

P On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C **They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.**

P They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

C **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. God of all nations, we thank You for our freedom and the liberties we treasure. Guide Your people by Your Spirit, that this nation may be an example of justice and freedom to the world. From the blessings of the past to the present, grant Your continued grace according to Your will. Give the people 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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading ✠ Remember the Lord Your God ✠ *Deuteronomy 8:7-18*

⁷For 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, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a 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. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹“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, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then 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, ¹⁵who 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, ¹⁶who 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. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ ¹⁸You 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise - Choir

“God of Our Fathers”

D. Roberts/G. Warren

Epistle

✠ Submission to the Authorities ✠

Romans 13:1-10

¹Let 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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For 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, ⁴for 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. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay 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. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

✠ Paying Taxes to Caesar ✠

Mark 12:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Confession of Faith

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.**

Sermon Hymn

"Before You, Lord, We Bow"

#966 sts. 1-4

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.

*Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Text: Public domain*

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SERVICE of the SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly right and beneficial 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. 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. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, with the saints from every nation gathered before Your throne, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.`

The Words of Our Lord

- P** 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."

Catechism

✠ The Fourth Petition ✠

Luther's Small Catechism

P As we prepare to receive the life-giving bread Christ has given to us by His own body, we give thanks to God for the daily bread He also provides for us by His grace. When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," what does this mean?

C **God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

P What is meant by daily bread?

C **Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

"Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

#830

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall. | 4 | Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do. |
| 2 | Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save. | 5 | Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do! |
| 3 | Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice. | 6 | Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call. |

*Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr.
composite*

Text: Public domain

Choir Anthem

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

S. Miller/J. Jackson

Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#809

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they
fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

2 Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and
love. *Refrain*

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! *Refrain*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
Text: Public domain

Refrain

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Communion Blessing

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

Psalm 136:1; Psalm 34:8, adapted

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this blessed gift. As Christ has forgiven us and set us free, we rejoice in our independence from all we ever need to fear. Grant Your holy and life-giving Spirit, that we may serve You as we seek to end divisions, overcome prejudice, and seek justice. Grant that we live in peace with one another through the peace that You have restored in our relationship with You; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Closing Sentences

Galatians 5:1, 16

P For freedom Christ has set us free;

C stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

P Walk by the Spirit,

C and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

After our closing hymn, the choir will sing “God Bless America” as our postlude. You’re invited to stay and listen and join in singing if you like!

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

Please pray for these members of our St.

Paul family:

Gloria Crook	Warren Miller
Betty Kruckow	Greg Block
Dawn McNicholas	Janet Varnagis
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Roy Hodgeman
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
The Giacobbe Children	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Julie & Larry Gurga
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Denise & Mark Murray
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Lois Kaminske	

We pray for those who grieve

We ask God's comfort for Evelyn Leise and for all of the friends and family of her sister, Inga Tegeler, called from this life on June 9. Services were held on Tuesday.

But we also give thanks with Evelyn Leise, as she celebrated her 93rd birthday on Thursday, June 30 and we ask God's blessings for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other times of joy!

We also say so long to our friend Carolyn Morrissey who is moving to Fort Wayne, IN.

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Eric Kessling	Barb & Emily Feehan
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Shirley Fairchild	Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer	Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Judy Collins	Phyllis Hicks
Maryann Krieg (Wilke)	Jenny Bond
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Monica Iversen
Cathy Becker	Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Mary Ann Rafidi	Pastor Mark Willig
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Debbie Guarascio	Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel	Frank Cogliunase
Nora Maculitis	Gene Wawrzynikowski
Kimberly Rooney	Rhonda Scott
Robert Gonzalez	Theresa Kostecki
Pam Kirk	Vicki Warren
Paul Moeller	