



July 5, 2026

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“God of Our Fathers”

- ♪ 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 Thy throne arise.
- ♪ Thy love divine hath led us in the past; In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay, Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
- ♪ From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
- ♪ Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way; Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine; And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

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## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

**All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord, and all Your saints shall bless You!**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

**Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

**Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.**

*Psalms 147:5; 145:10; 29:2; 115:1; 33:12, 22*

## Confession and Absolution

I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice

**And my pleas for mercy.**

*Psalms 116:1*

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalms 124:8*

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Hebrews 4:16*

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your faithful people. So often we have done the evil You forbid and too many times have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *A Time of Silence***

God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, You have blessed our nation over many years. Graciously continue to watch over this land, that we may rejoice in Your abiding protection and serve You with gladness of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“We Praise You, O God”

♪ We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

♪ We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

♪ With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.  
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 785 – Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.; Text: Public domain*

## **Old Testament Reading**

1 Samuel 2:6–10

<sup>6</sup>The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

<sup>8</sup>He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup>“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,

but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.

<sup>10</sup>The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;

he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

Romans 13:1–10

<sup>1</sup>Let 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. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For 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, <sup>4</sup>for 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. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay 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.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the 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.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

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

♪ 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.

♪ 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.

*Please Stand*

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

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## The Holy Gospel

Mark 12:13–17

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. <sup>14</sup>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?” <sup>15</sup>But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” <sup>16</sup>And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him,

“Caesar's.” <sup>17</sup>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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

**Children’s Message** *Please Be Seated*

## **The Hymn**

“God Bless Our Native Land”

♪ God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.

When the wild tempest 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!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 965-Text: (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.; Text: Public domain*

## **Proclamation of the Word**

“Anyone’s Opinion”

Mark 12:13–17

## **Offering and Musical Offering**

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Preface**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

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

*Psalms 136*

## **Proper Preface**

## **Lord’s Prayer**

## **Words of Our Lord**

## **The Peace of the Lord**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“America, the Beautiful”

- ♪ O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountains 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 pilgrims 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!
- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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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“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!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 966-Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.; Text: Public domain*

## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

**Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

## Recessional Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

- ♪ Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
- ♪ Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
- ♪ We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.
- ♪ When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.
- ♪ From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 649-Text: John Fawcett 1740-1817; Public domain.*

## Postlude