



July 2, 2023

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Accordingly, let us now make confession of our sins.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord will give strength to His people.

The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Prayer

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“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: Charles T. Brooks 1813-83, v. 1; John S. Dwight 1813-93, v. 2
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London c. 1740; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, 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. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

2 Kings 18:1–8, 28–36

¹In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. ²He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. ³And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. ⁴He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). ⁵He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. ⁶For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses. ⁷And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. ⁸He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

²⁸Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! ²⁹Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. ³⁰Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ ³¹Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, ³²until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to

Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, “The LORD will deliver us.” ³³Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? ³⁵Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?”

³⁶But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, “Do not answer him.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 4:7–18

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *Music: “It Came Upon the Midnight” Hymn 366* “Great King of Nations”

♪ Great King of nations, hear our prayer While at Thy feet we fall
And humbly with united cry To Thee for mercy call.
The guilt is ours, but grace is Thine; Oh, turn us not away,
But hear us from Thy lofty throne And help us when we pray.

♪ Our father's sins were manifold, And ours no less we own;
Yet wondrously from age to age Thy goodness hath been shown.
When dangers, like a stormy sea, Beset our country round,
To Thee we looked, to Thee we cried, And help in Thee was found.

♪ With one consent we meekly bow Beneath Thy chast'ning hand
And, pouring forth confession meet, Mourn with our mourning land.
With pitying eye behold our need As thus we lift our prayer;
Correct us with Thy judgments, Lord, Then let Thy mercy spare.

Text: John H. Gurney, 1802-1862. Public Domain.

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 22:15–22

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

Creedal Hymn *Music: “Immortal, Invisible”, Hymn 802*

“In God We Believe”

♪ In God we believe: The Creator whose pow’r, In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.

He graciously grants us our years and our days

And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

♪ In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured. True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.

With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

♪ God’s Spirit at work in our lives we confess;

With power and truth, the Church now He does bless.

As saints, God’s forgiven, one day we shall then Be living in glory forever. Amen.

*In God, We Believe-Text: Gregory J. Wismar; 1991 CPH. All rights reserved. Used by permission
Tune: Welsh; Setting: Richard W. Hilert b.1923; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Proclamation of the Word

“Sometimes Believe Can Deceive”

2 Kings 18:28–36

Offering and Musical Offering

Preface *Please Stand*

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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Music: "America, the Beautiful" The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 572

♪ O holy, holy, holy Lord Our God of hosts adored
We bless and praise the coming One, Who brings us peace, our Lord;
Hosanna in the highest, sing! Hosannas now we bring;
Let all creation praises bring, To Christ the King of kings!

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

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

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:26 & Revelation 22:20

Lord's Prayer

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "America, the Beautiful" The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 572

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

Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

"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

Tune: John Darwall 1731-89, setting: William H. Monk 1823-89; Public Domain.

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

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *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!

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 572-Text: Katherine Lee Bates 1859-1929
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Postlude