

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maytown, Pennsylvania

Independence Day
July 5, 2026 10:30 AM



“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.”

- Galatians 5:13

Lisa Hair, Pastor Keith Smith, Organist Anne Hollinger, Secretary
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THE PRELUDE: “Stars and Stripes Forever” by J.P. Sousa

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS’

LITANY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Congregation stands)

P: As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

P: For the courageous women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For the brave men and women who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

C: **We thank you Lord.**

P: Lord, we pray for these United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

C: **We pray to you Lord.**

P: That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

C: **We pray to you Lord.**

P: That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

C: **We pray to you Lord.**

P: That those who are elected to govern and lead would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

C: **We pray to you Lord.**

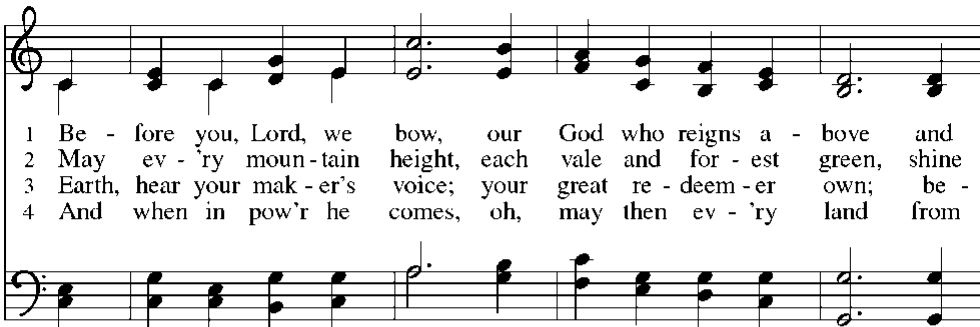
P: That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

C: **We pray to you Lord.**

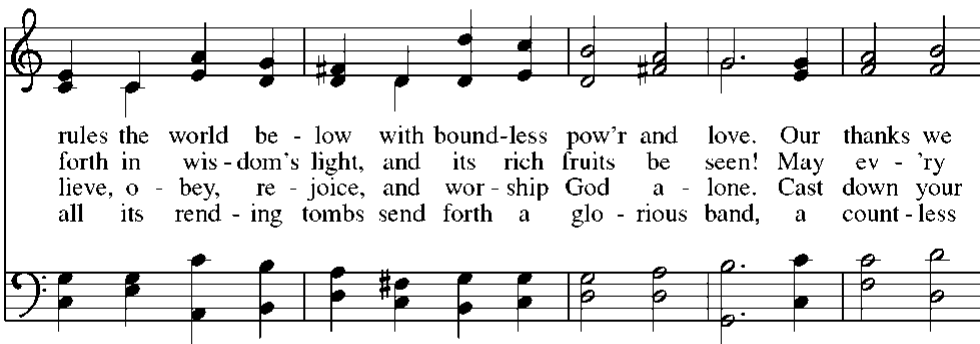
P: Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord of the nations,

C: guide our people by your Spirit so that justice and freedom prevail in this land. Give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all the people of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Congregation sits)

THE SOLO: "This Is My Country" by D. Raye/A. Jacobs – Sung by Glenn Bachert

THE FIRST READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-6a

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.

HYMN #632 – "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

5 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
6 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

THE SECOND READING: John 8:31-36

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

HYMN #890 – “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

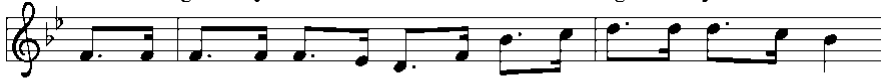
Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



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,

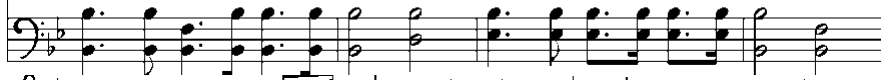


his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

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.



THE THIRD READING: 2 Chronicles 7:12-16

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain or command the locust to devour the land or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that my name may be there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

HYMN #756 – "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from roek and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go: thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea,
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea,
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea,
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

THE FOURTH READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-18

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

HYMN: “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”

**My country ‘tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From ev’ry mountainside
Let freedom ring.**

**My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free, thy name I love.
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees sweet freedom’s song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathes partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.**

**Our fathers’ God, to thee,
Author of liberty, to thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom’s holy light.
Protect us by thy might,
Great God our King.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Congregation stands)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*(At the end of each prayer petition, the pastor will say: God of grace...
Please respond: "Hear our prayer.")*

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

(Take a moment to greet those around you)

THE OFFERTORY – "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" by E. Lazarus/I. Berlin

(Congregation sits)

HYMN #884 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

(Congregation stands)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: **as grains of wheat are gathered for bread, and grapes together are poured out as wine, so may we be united in your presence through this sacrament of grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/COMMUNION LITURGY

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 our thanks and praise.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we celebrate our nation's heritage, it is fitting that we give you thanks and praise.

You created a land rich in resources and you set before the founders and pioneers of our nation an opportunity beyond measure to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom which would be a blessing to all the world.

Most of all, gracious God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ who is for us the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He proclaimed justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release for the prisoners, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and with your church in all the world. Send us forth to be for the world the Body of Christ, that all people may know your saving love.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C: His steadfast love endures forever!

(Congregation sits)

THE DISTRIBUTION *(Standing, or kneeling at the rail.)*

(Come forward as directed by an usher, via the center aisle; and return to your pew via the side aisle on your side of the nave. As you approach the front, please take an empty glass from the container on the table in the center aisle. Pastor will give you bread, and the lector will pour in wine into your cup. After consuming, please place the used cup in the empty container on the windowsill before returning to your seat.)

(All are welcome at Christ's table! Those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.)

THE PRAYER

(Congregation stands)

P: Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor all that you have made; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

**P: Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him,
and abound in thanksgiving;**

**and the blessing of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and
remain with you forever.**

C: Amen

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain:
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life:
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears:

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea,
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness, and ev-ry gain di-vine.
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace to bear Christ's love to the world!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

THE POSTLUDE – “God Bless America” by I. Berlin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN...

...in memory of Corey and in celebration of Corey's heavenly 46th birthday, July 4th. We love you and miss you so much! Love, Mom and Dad

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY

LECTOR – Ben Lengle

FLOWERS – Jamie and Michael Sine

ALTAR CARE – Pat Vogel

OFFERING COUNTERS – Rodney Nell, Dick Shelly, Anne Hollinger

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE NEXT WEEK

LECTOR – Mic Reidy

FLOWERS – Connie Longenecker

ALTAR CARE – Pat Vogel

OFFERING COUNTERS – Rodney Nell, Dick Shelly, Anne Hollinger

ANNOUCEMENTS:

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday: Praise Band Practice, 6:30 PM

Council Meeting, 7 PM

Friday: Rummage Sale Drop-off, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Sunday 7/12: Adult Sunday School, 9 AM

Contemporary Service, 10:30 AM

Thank You!

To Glenn for the beautiful solo this morning!

Parking Lot Fund

As stated in the last several bulletins we need \$14,415 when the parking lot is resurfaced this month. The finance committee put envelopes in the pews marked PARKING LOT FUND. Your donations will help us. We have to maintain a very old building so we do not want to deplete the Building Fund and with the parsonage currently vacant we hope to keep funds needed from the Operating Fund to a minimum. As of the end of May we have collected \$2,525. I want to thank everyone that has already donated. I will post updates every few weeks. Nina Gaskill, Finance Committee Chairperson.

Parsonage Update

The parsonage has been rented to a nice family who said they loved the house as soon as they walked through the front door. Their names are Quinn and Llena Williams and son Gage. The family is moving from North Carolina having previously lived in the Chester County, PA area. Mr. Williams works in the graphic design, marketing and consulting field. We welcome them to the community and look forward to the family enjoying life in the parsonage. – Property Committee

Adult Sunday School

Beginning on July 12, Pastor Lisa will be teaching an adult class at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings. The class will be a “Zip Through Luther’s Small Catechism,” and is meant to refresh your understanding of the catechism in a short period of time. Participants will receive a copy of the Small Catechism to take notes in and then take home to use in daily devotion. Hope to see you there!

Annual Youth Group Rummage Sale

Join us for our Annual Youth Group Rummage Sale on July 31 and August 1 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We welcome donations of gently used items! Drop-off will be available on Fridays in July from 9:30-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, or before and after Sunday worship. We are also hosting a Bake Sale and Hot Dog Sale and welcome both donations and volunteers to help make the event a success. This sale is a meaningful ministry to our community—everything is offered on a “by donation only” basis, while also supporting our youth group events throughout the year. Questions? Please see Danielle, Becky, or Jen.

Shut-in List

Our shut-in list has been updated. Copies of this list can be found next to the bulletins.