

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*July 5-6, 2025*

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION**

**THANKS FOR DIVINE PROVIDENCE AND FORGIVENESS**

**AS WE GATHER**

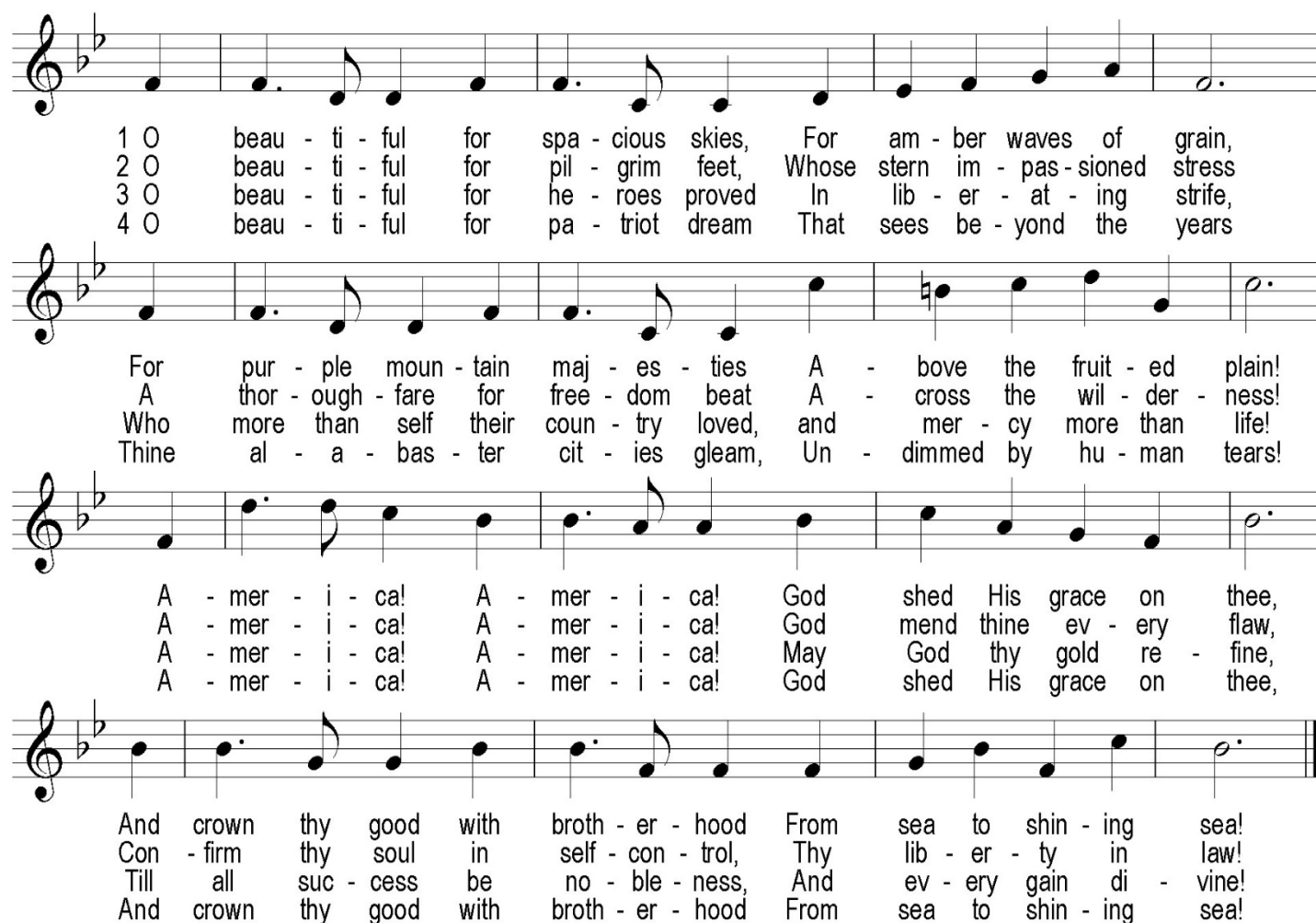
Today's Old Testament Reading is a call to rejoicing for people of faith in Christ. The guaranteed future includes "peace...like a river," a powerful and restful image for Americans who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Today, as we highlight songs of praise for God and Country, we especially rejoice that no matter what the turmoil in our country and world, God has promised His loved ones a future where "there ain't gonna be war no more" and where "the lion lays down with the lamb." With all that is going on in our world today this is a promise worth holding close to our hearts in the midst of our many challenges. Pastor is preaching on Matthew 6:12 which is part of the Lord's Prayer, where Jesus teaches his followers to ask God to "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." This verse highlights the importance of forgiveness, both receiving it from God and extending it to others. It emphasizes that forgiveness is a two-way street, something we sorely need to practice in our country rather than the angry rhetoric that so often marks our political discourse. First and foremost, we rejoice that in spite of our shortcomings in this area, we have the assurance that God has already given us what He asks us to freely give to one another.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Prelude**      “A Patriotic Prelude for Trumpet and Organ”      by Charles Callahan  
Mark Senechal, Trumpet

### Pastoral Greeting

**Opening Hymn**      “America the Beautiful”      HWC 572



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern im - pas - sioned stress  
3 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved strife, In lib - er - at - ing years  
4 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!  
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!  
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! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!  
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!  
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine!  
And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!

### INVOCATION      based on John 3:16; 8:36; Romans 5:1

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father,  
**People:** **who loved us and sent His Son to set us free.**

**Pastor:** In the name of His ✠ Son, Jesus,  
**People:** **whose sacrifice gives us freedom and peace.**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
**People:** **who brings us to faith and sustains our faith through the working of water and the Word. Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24, 26–27*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

**People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

**People: We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Pastor: The LORD is God,

**People: and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, You have blessed us with a free land, having rights and privileges others dream about. We live in a land where liberty is given to us. With freedom also comes temptation to misuse our freedom.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, for misusing freedom in selfish ways. Keep us from squandering the precious opportunities You have given to us by the many freedoms we have.**

Pastor: For these sins and all sins, sins of thought, word, and deed; by what we have done or failed to do,

**People: we stand before You now, asking Your forgiveness, and for the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. He has called me, a called and ordained servant of our King, to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive that forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen! Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me. Help me, by the aid of Your Holy Spirit, to relish the freedoms You have given us as Christians and as a country.**



## Spoken Kyrie

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the freedom given to us by Christ, let us thank the Lord,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For Holy Baptism, which sets us free from sin, let us bless the Lord,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our gracious God, who desires all men be saved, let us thank the Lord,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for our freedom in Christ.

People: Amen!

## Hymn of Praise

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand  
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of  
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.  
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

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## ✂ WORD ✂

### First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

*(The prophet calls for rejoicing in the present time, for God has promised comfort and peace.)*

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her;  
that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious abundance."

For thus says the Lord:

"Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,  
and the glory of the nations  
like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,  
and bounced upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts,

so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;



**your bones shall flourish like the grass;  
and the hand of the Lord shall be known to his servants,  
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

“For the Mountains Shall Depart”

Hank Beebe

Rachel Becker, solo

Mark Senechal, trumpet

Diana Gaide, piano

*(Based on Isaiah 54:6-7,10 – God will never leave us or forsake us, no matter what is happening in our country or in our world.)*

## **Epistle: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18**

*(Paul encourages mutual caring and global outreach.)*

**Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.**

**Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

**But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.**

**From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.**



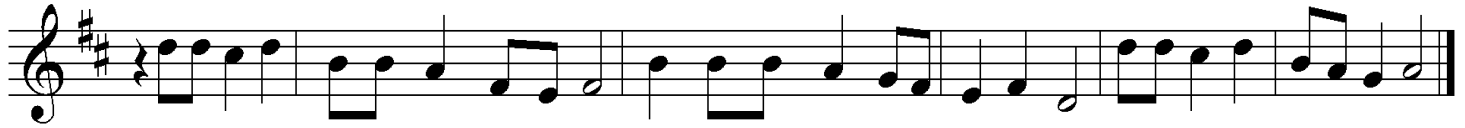


Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.*

**VERSE**     *John 6:68*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

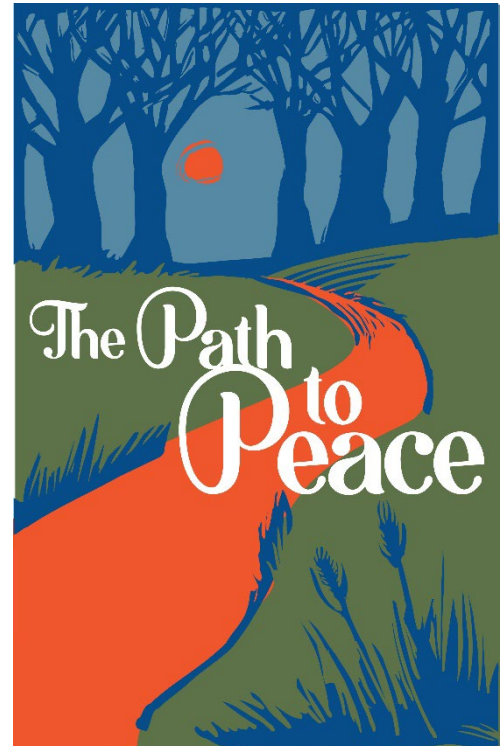
Pastor:     The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

**People:     Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-20**

*(Jesus rejoices with the disciples as they return with good news.)*

**After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.**



**“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.**

**“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”**

**The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Children’s Message (9:00)**

Pastor Larson

**Hymn of the Day**

“God of Our Fathers”

HWC 573

*(Note that “your true religion” in verse 3 is “receiving and giving forgiveness,” which is the subject of our sermon text and Pastor’s message today.)*

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al-might - y hand Leads forth in  
2. Your love di - vine has led us in the past; In this free  
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence Make your strong

beau - ty all the star - ry band Of shin - ing worlds in  
land by you our lot is cast; Oh, be our rul - er,  
arm our ev - er sure de - fense. Your true re - li - gion

splen - dor through the skies: Our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.  
guard - ian, guide, and stay; Your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.  
in our hearts in - crease; Your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.

**Sermon**

“Forgiving and Forgiven”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Matthew 6:12

**Statement of Faith: Catechism**

*The First Article*

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In our secular society our constitution begins with this paragraph:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Let us use it as a guide as we ask our heavenly Father's continued care. We, the people of the United States.

**People: We recognize Your grace, O God, in creating us, calling us to faith, and leading us totally by grace. We thank You for placing us within this great land.**

Pastor: To form a more perfect union, establish justice.

**People: We pray, Lord God, that You would raise up people dedicated to working together for all people, serving them equally in the wisdom You provide.**

Pastor: Insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense.

**People: Lord Jesus, protect and guide those who serve in the armed forces and those who keep the peace in our neighborhoods.**

Pastor: Promote the general welfare.

**People: Bless, O Lord, all who run toward danger for the sake of others, those who use their gifts for health and healing, and those who raise crops, tend flocks, and distribute the gifts of this bountiful land for the good of all.**

Pastor: And secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

**People: Help us, O Holy Spirit, to maintain all that You have given us so that our children and children's children may also give thanks to You with all You so graciously provide.**

*(Other intercessions may be added here)*

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask, gracious God, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



**People:**     **Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

**Pastor:**     The peace of the Lord be with  
                  you always.

**People:**     **And also with you.**

*You may now greet one another in the name  
of the Lord using...Peace be with you!*

**Offering** (4:00 pm - collected in back;  
9:00 am – collected in the pews)



### **Ministry of Music (4:00 pm) / Offering Music (9:00) (Organ / Piano Duet)**

“Hymns of God and Country”

arr. Nielsen & Young  
Diana Gaide, pianist  
Michael Zehnder, organist

### **✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠**

*The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.*

### **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

#### **Preface     (Divine Service, Setting One)**

**Pastor:**     The Lord be with you.

**People:**     **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**     Lift up your hearts.

**People:**     **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:**     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

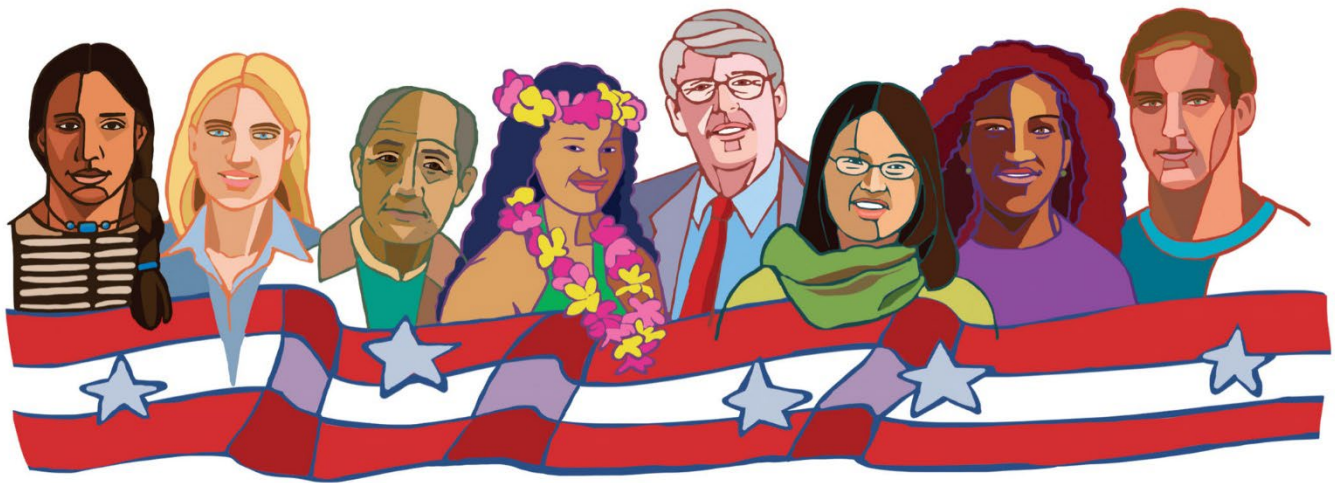
#### **Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**                 *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People:**     **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.

# From Sea to Shining Sea



## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

**Flute Solo**

“God Bless the USA”

Lee Greenwood  
Ann Westra, flute

**Piano Solo**

“America”

Bill Wolaver  
Diana Gaide, piano

**Hymn** (as time permits)

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

*LSB 717*

## General Communion Blessing

### Benediction

**Pastor:** Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

**People:** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

HWC 569



All 1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord, He is  
 Men 2 I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hun-dred cir - cling camps, They have  
 Women 3 In the beau - ty of the li - lies Christ was born a - cross the sea, With a  
 tramp - ling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath  
 build - ed Him an al - tar in the eve - ning dews and damps; I can  
 glo - ry in His bo - som that trans - fi - ures you and me; As He  
 loosed the fate - ful light - ning of His ter - ri - ble swift sword: His  
 read His right - eous sen - tence by the dim and flar - ing lamps His  
 died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free, While  
 truth is march - ing on.  
 day is march - ing on.  
 God is march - ing on.  
**ALL** 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.

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

TBD



### **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**OFFICIANT**

Pastor John Larson

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**

Michael J. Zehnder

**PIANIST**

Diana Gaide

**FLUTE**

Ann Westra

**TRUMPET**

Mark Senechal

**SOLOIST**

Rachel Becker

**ELDERS**

4:00 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 9:00 a.m. Arvin Michel

**ACOLYTES**

9:00 a.m. Benjamin Dallet

**LECTORS**

4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson; 9:00 a.m. David Kaiser

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson

**ALTAR GUILD**

Tanya Schmitt, Athenia Michel