

Outdoor Worship

July 5, 2026

P: On this weekend of the celebration of our nation's 250th year of independence, it is fitting that we give thanks to God for the blessing we enjoy and ask God to continue to guide us on a path that sustains and promotes these blessings for us and throughout the world.

Reading

The Declaration of Independence, Paragraph 2

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

P: Let us pray;

C: God of the nations, we give you thanks for having raised up courageous, insightful and wise men and women who devoted their lives to founding our nation with principals and laws that have led to the blessings of freedom, prosperity and opportunity that many Americans now enjoy. Continue to provide our nation with such visionary, energetic and committed leaders that we will continue to strive for all the people to enjoy life and liberty and have the opportunity to pursue happiness. Guard us from the social ills that divide and undermine the greatness of our nation, and inspire us to join together in our unique way to care for those in need for their sake and for the well-being of our communities. Stir our own sense of responsibility as citizens, that we will not take our freedoms for

granted, but engage in the selfless work necessary to maintain that freedom. With all faith and hope in a prosperous and just future, we entrust America to your care and providence and pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Entrance Hymn

400

For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,
For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found,
For the freedoms we enjoy here,
God, may thanks to you abound! God, may thanks to you abound!

For your peace and love unending, breaking barriers that divide;
For the joy of cultures blending as we live here side by side;
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May we all be unified! May we all be unified!

For your hand to lead and guide us, for your work in history,
For your vision born inside us of a just society,
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May this vision come to be! May this vision come to be!

May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,
May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.
May we follow where you lead us;
God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!

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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Dialog & Prayer of the Day

P: For the beauty of the earth, Creator God,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the rich abundance of the natural order, Lord,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the many ways that you provide for all creation, Sustainer,

C: We give you thanks.

P: For the material things that enable our survival and provide for our comfort, gracious God,

C: We give you thanks.

P: As we strive first for the Kingdom of God and its righteousness,

C: Teach us to pursue the work of justice.

P: We live in a world that has the resources to satisfy everyone's hunger, if only we will share our food.

C: Teach us to love kindness.

P: We long to live lives characterized by reckless generosity and hospitality.

C: Teach us to walk humbly with you.

P: We commit to sharing all that you have entrusted to us with all people,

C: That in so doing, we might be transformed into more faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

P: Let us pray:

C: With eager ears, willing hearts and open minds we listen for Your word, Lord God. Through the inspiration of Spirit, let it take root, blossom and bear the fruits of wisdom, understanding and action. For the sake of Jesus and a world hungry for your Kingdom, do not leave us barren and wilting. Amen.

LESSON

1 Corinthians

How about your own calling to faith, brothers and sisters?! Few of you are "wise" from the perspective of the ways of the world - few of you are "powerful," few of you are "noble." But, God chose the "foolish" of this world, so that God may shame the "wise"; and God chose the "weak" of the world, so that God may shame the "strong"; and God chose the "base" of the world and the things that the world despises - things that are "insignificant" - so that God could make the things "significant" to the world unproductive - so that this world might actually boast in the presence of God. But you, you are God's in Christ Jesus, who became "wisdom" to us from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - so that, just as it is written,

"The one boasting in the Lord, boast!"

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

*Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.*

**May God judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

*May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.*

**May God defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

*May God live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.*

**May God be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

*In God's days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.*

**May God have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

*May God's foes bow down before God,
and God's enemies lick the dust.*

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**

*May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.*

**For God delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

*God has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.*

**From oppression and violence God redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in God's sight.**

*Long may God live!
May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.*

**May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.**

*May God's name endure forever,
God's fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

*Blessed be God's glorious name forever;
may God's glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 13

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

While Jesus was still on the boat and the crowds were gathered on the beach he told them a third parable, saying . . .

"The Kingdom of the Heavens is like a mustard seed which someone takes and sows in the field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but whenever it may grow it is the greatest of the vegetables and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the heaven come and dwell in its branches. . . . Let anyone with ears be listening!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed* tune **452**

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|---|---|
| 1. We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find
The proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.
The proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind. | to bear the fruit love yields.
For love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields. |
| 2. Our actions, more than words, define
how love's example feeds
A greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds;
A greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds. | 4. Make love our purpose, love our aim,
for love endures all things,
And choosing love, our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings.
And choosing love, our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings. |
| 3. When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,
For love invested will expand | 5. Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown
And by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known.
And by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known. |

Prayers & Passing of the Peace

Words of Institution

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and responsible that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. We recall and proclaim that in your great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who came as the Messiah, reaching out to heal the sick and suffering, preaching good news to the poor, and inviting all to your table through his sacrifice on the cross.

In that night in which he was handed over . . .

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

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.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: We rejoice that you use the harvests of the field, the fruit of the vineyard and the fellowship of the table to fulfill your promise of an abiding presence in our lives. As we leave this sacred time lead us out to faithful lives that manifest that presence through all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Final Hymn

Lord Let My Heart

512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, July 5 250th Independence Commemoration & Worship

Name Tag Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Outdoor worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, July 8

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Club

Sunday, July 12

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Outdoor worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Music Director*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Samantha Calamera, *Sexton*

Doug Jenkins, *Dig. Ministry* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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