

July 5, 2026



PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

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!

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

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



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2





wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: A people holy to the Lord our God.

A: We have seen what our God has done

C: We declare God's faithfulness from age to age for all time.

A: We hear and keep God's Word,

C: And all that God has spoken we will do.

P: Let us pray:

C: Mighty God, by the Spirit we boldly confess that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from Your love for us. Keep us strong in this conviction despite the evidence presented to convince us otherwise. For we live in the hope of Your surprising wisdom revealed through Your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Lesson

Ezekiel 17

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Say now to the rebellious house: Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them: The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, took its king and its officials, and brought them back with him to Babylon. He took one of the royal offspring and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath (he had taken away the chief men of the land), so that the kingdom might be humble and not lift itself up, and that by keeping his covenant it might stand. But he rebelled against him by sending ambassadors to Egypt, in order that they might give him horses and a large army. Will he succeed? Can one escape who does such things? Can he break the covenant and yet escape? As I live, says the Lord God, surely in the place where the king resides who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant with the Lord God he broke--in Babylon he will die. Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in war, when ramps are cast up and siege walls built to cut off many lives. Because he despised the oath and broke the covenant, because he gave his hand and yet did all these things, he shall not escape. Therefore, thus says the Lord God: As I live, I will surely return upon his head my oath that he despised, and my covenant

that he broke. I will spread my net over him, and he shall be caught in my snare; I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there for the treason he has committed against me. All the pick of his troops shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken.

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

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

Psalm

Psalm 72

*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.*

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!

VERSE

ELW Setting 3

S 142a

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.

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**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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. |

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace

Offering / Offertory

182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us Pray

C: God of grace and abundance, we joyfully offer these gifts of thanks for your blessings in our lives. We pray that you find what we bring in this moment to be an acceptable and adequate reflection of our gratitude, that you will continue to look on us as your faithful people, worthy of your favor and beneficence. And with humbleness in the face of our hubris, we beg your forgiveness for our lack of attention, respect and care for all you provide. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 3

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed . . .

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

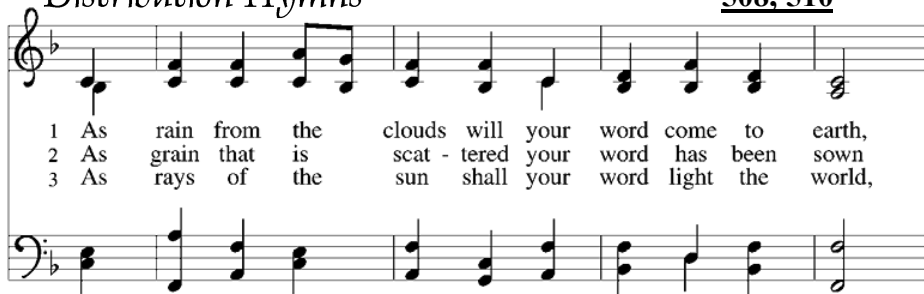
The Eucharistic Prayer

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. 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 now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

508, 510



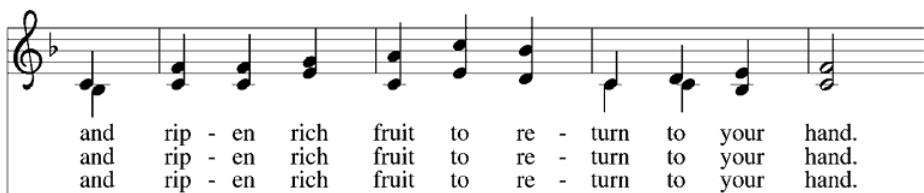
1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



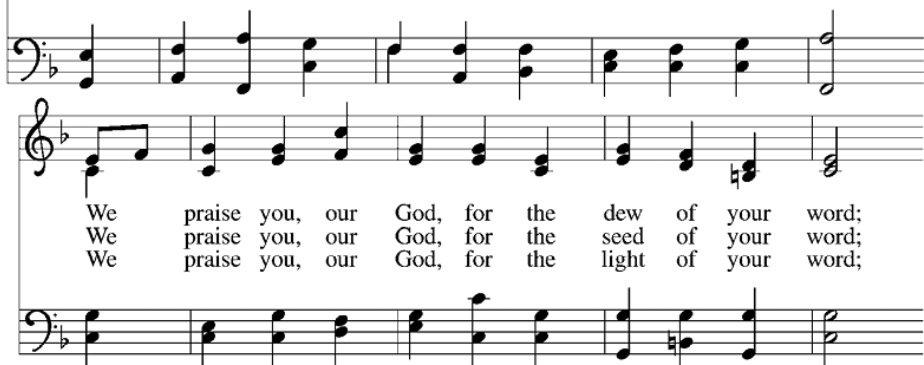
as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



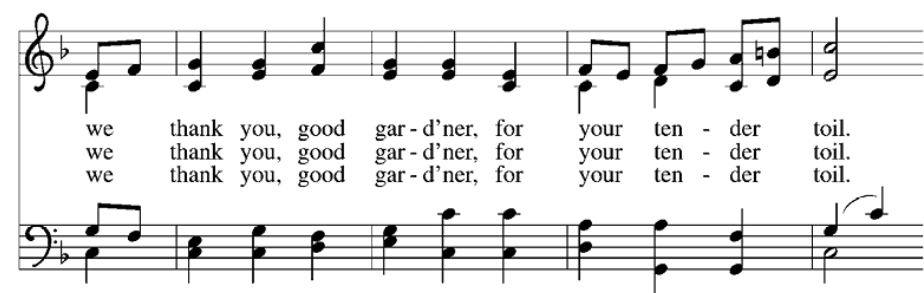
Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.



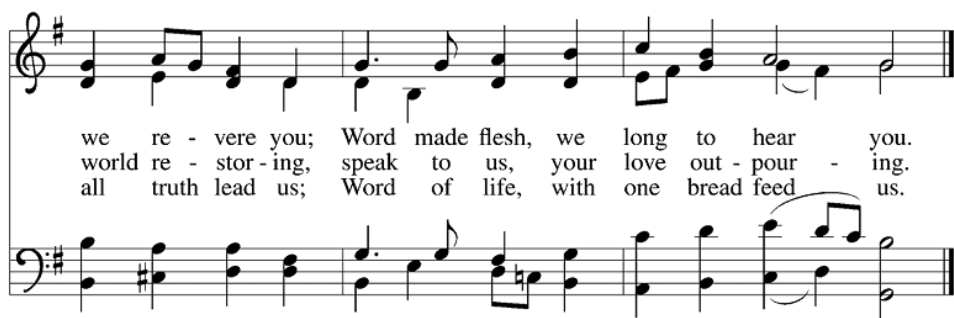
1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing; speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Recessional

1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears
 2. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From
 3. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,
 4. The reign of God is come in Christ; The

weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are
 ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.
 feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.
 ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 kind - ling hearts, The reign of God is here!

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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