

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2026

“Rebels and Patriots”

THE WELCOME

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

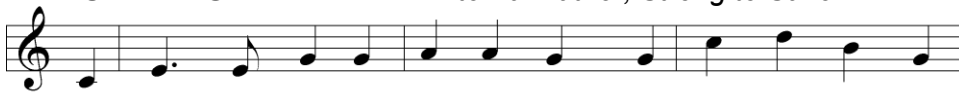
C: I pledge allegiance to the cross of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and to the faith, for which it stands; one Savior Eternal, with mercy and grace for all, so help me God.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

C: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America; and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(please be seated)

THE OPENING HYMN #717 *“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”*



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, out of Your great mercy You have caused us to live in this great land, a land of freedom and opportunity. But we confess to You, gracious God, that we have not always used the freedom we have as citizens of this land to honor You or to serve others.

(a time of silence for personal reflection and confession)

C: Forgive us, Lord, for we have often misused the gift of “freedom of religion” as “freedom from religion.” We have neglected the faithful gathering of Your people for worship. Too often we have not honored and respected those You have placed in authority over us. We often take for granted the gifts You give us in this country, and we have even claimed credit for our freedom for ourselves. For these and all our many other sins, good Lord, forgive us. Restore and renew us, and encourage us by Your Holy Spirit to live in freedom for Your glory.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us. He sent His Son into this world of sin to set us free from the power of sin and death. At the command and promise of my Lord Jesus Christ, I, as your called and ordained pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 33 (Selected verses—ESV)

P: Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

C: For the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

P: He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

C: Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

P: The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

C: The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD!

P: The LORD looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man;

C: from where He sits enthroned He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

P: The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

C: The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

P: The eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love,

C: that He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

P: Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

C: For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE HYMN OF PRAISE *“God of Our Fathers”*

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grandful songs before Your throne arise.**

**Your love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by You our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, Your paths our chosen way.**

**From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence
Make Your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh Your people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with heav’n-born love and grace
Until at last we meet before Your face.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray to the Lord. God of all might and glory, You called into being nations and governments to keep order and protect sinful humanity. We ask You to bless these United States of America. Guide our leaders so they will not direct us to paths that dishonor You. Continue to bless us in this land with the freedom to worship You as we ought, and to proclaim the Gospel of salvation without hindrance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE EPISTLE Romans 13:1-10 (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

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

C: *(sung)* Glory to You, O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Him in His words. And 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. Tell us, then, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin for the tax." And they brought Him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They 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." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left Him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #966 "Before You, Lord, We Bow"



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor - ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less thron, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

THE SERMON "Rebels and Patriots" Text: Romans 13:1-10

(please stand)

THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be-low;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the response: "Let us pray to the Lord," "Lord, have mercy.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

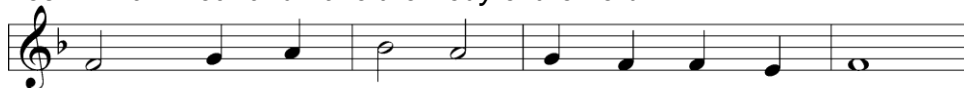
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

#785 "We Praise You, O God"



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

#733 "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 Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art 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,
Soon bears us all 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,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!**

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. You have blessed our nation and by Your grace have brought us to this time and place. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

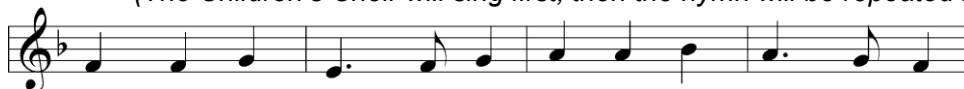
The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please remain standing)

THE CLOSING HYMN #965 "God Bless Our Native Land"

(The Children's Choir will sing first; then the hymn will be repeated by everyone.)



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!

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS