

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Freedom In Christ

July 7, 2024

PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

SPECIAL MUSIC - Youth Raise Praise Choir (Sunday)

PLEDGES

HYMN “Lift High the Cross” LSB 837

sts. ref-6

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

5 Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

Text and music: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:24, 26–27

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

P The LORD is God,

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P 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.

C **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.**

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

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

P Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. As a called and ordained servant and ambassador of our King of kings and Lord of lords Jesus Christ, it is my privilege to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive His forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **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.**

INTROIT

Psalm 67; antiphon: v. 3

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

P May God be gracious to us and bless us

C **and make His face to shine upon us,**

P that Your way may be known on earth,

C **Your saving power among all nations.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C **for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

P The earth has yielded its increase;

C **God, our God, shall bless us.**

P God shall bless us;

C **let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the freedom given to us by Christ, let us thank the Lord,
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Holy Baptism, which sets us free from sin, let us bless the Lord,
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our gracious God, who desires all men be saved, let us thank the Lord,
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Thank You, Lord, for our freedom in Christ.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism, You give us freedom in and through the cross of Jesus. Although our sins were like crimson, You make them white as snow. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on our lives, that we may live a life dead to sin but alive and free in Christ; through one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forevermore.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 2:1–5

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you."
As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.'
And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:1–10

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.
I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows.
And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows--was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.
To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC - Mark Roemer (Saturday)
Youth Raise Praise Choir (Sunday)**

SERMON “I Am Blessed to Be a Christian”

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

OFFERING

HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God” LSB 895

- 1 Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav’n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord Jesus Christ, Your death on the cross has set us free from our worst enemies—sin, death, and the devil. In Holy Baptism, You made us Your own, and gave us not only the forgiveness of sins but also Your Holy Spirit. Help us live in that freedom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You have given us a great gift in the freedom we have as a country and as individuals.

Grant that we always use our freedom to advance Your kingdom, and never to bring harm to anyone. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father in heaven, as we celebrate our independence, grant that we have a bigger picture of freedom in mind—freedom in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P While we celebrate our national freedom, there are those in this world who are not free because of their faith in You. They are imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and some will die for Your name. Give them strength by Your Holy Spirit to remain faithful unto death and receive the crown of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We also lift up those not free from illness today, [*especially . . .*]. According to Your gracious will, release them from illness, pain, and suffering of body, mind, and soul, using doctors, nurses, medicines, and miracles if it be Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We also remember those who are not free: the marginalized, the poor, those addicted to drugs, the homeless, and those suffering from fear. Show compassion to them and help them in their hour of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We are called by Your Word to remember our leaders. We remember those who lead our nation: our president, our Congress, those who lead at the state and local levels. Give them wisdom to govern this great land that we might always be free. We also ask that You would give every leader in authority in our world a desire for peace and not war. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We lift these and the petitions of our hearts up to You, gracious Father, knowing that You will both hear and answer us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who set us free to be Your people; who with You and the Holy Spirit reigns, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.**

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross, giving us the greatest freedom of all.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" LSB 809

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

Text and tune: Public domain

HYMN “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” LSB 717

sts. 1–4

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,
O’er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low;
Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand
From ev’ry peril on the land.

3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent
To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might
Save all who dare the eagle’s flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care
From ev’ry peril in the air.

4 O Trinity of love and pow’r,
Our people shield in danger’s hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe’er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

Text (sts. 1, 4): William Whiting, 1825–78, alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-76

Text (sts. 1, 4) and music: Public domain

Text (sts. 2–3): © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888

HYMN “O Living Bread from Heaven” LSB 642

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.
- 2 My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.
- 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav’nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Musae Sioniae, vol. 7, Wolfenbuttel, 1609, ed. Michael Praetorius Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, You have given us a taste of freedom in Your true body and blood. As we celebrate our country’s freedom today, keep us always mindful of the greatest freedom of all You have given us, namely the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we always remember in Baptism we have become Your own people, free to worship and serve You, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN “God Bless Our Native Land” LSB 965

1 God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

2 So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.

Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London, c. 1740; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.

Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.