



***"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."***

(We celebrate the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of "The Declaration of Independence." God told us that "prayers... and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2) We pray for the safety of those in public office, armed forces, and in law enforcement. And we thank God for the freedoms we have in our country including the freedom to worship our God according to the Scriptures and the freedom to proclaim His saving truth.)

[ P = Pastor C = Congregation ]

Opening Hymn: CW 618 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

*"Before the Lord We Bow"*

Before the Lord we bow, The God who reigns above  
And rules the world below In boundless pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring, In joy and praise  
Our hearts we raise To heav'n's high King.

The nation you have blest May well your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.  
For this fair land, For this bright day,  
Our thanks we pay-- Gifts of your hand.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice,  
Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
And bow before The Crucified.

### The Invocation

P: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sung) Amen.

### The Confession & Absolution

P: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and no secrets are hidden. Cleanse our thoughts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and honor your holy name.

Let us confess our sins:

C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of the world: We confess that we have sinned against your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed. We have provoked your anger against us. We repent and are truly sorry for our sins. It grieves us to think about them. Their burden is heavy. Have mercy on us, gracious Father. Forgive us our sins for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve you with a new life, to the honor of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Rejoice! The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office, I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Prayer for the Day

P: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make us strong; you alone make us holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

### First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

(The faithful prophet, Jeremiah, proclaimed the *Lord's judgment against sin*. On the one hand, he wanted to quit preaching to avoid persecution. On the other hand, he *couldn't hold back*. Spirit-borne zeal for his Lord burned within his heart. The same forces are in us as we pray for our nation. To whom can we turn for help? We confidently commit our cause to the Lord Almighty.)

<sup>7</sup>You persuaded me, Lord, and I was persuaded. You are stronger than I am, and you prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long, and everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup>Whenever I speak, I call out. I call out, "Violence and destruction!" because the word of the Lord has brought me insult and mockery all day long. <sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him or speak in his name any more," then there is a burning fire in my heart, shut up in my bones, and I am weary of holding it in. I cannot!

<sup>10</sup>I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" "Denounce him! Let's denounce him," say all my close friends, those who are watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will

be persuaded, then we will prevail against him and we will take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup>But the Lord is with me like a fearsome warrior. So my persecutors will stumble and they will not prevail. They will be utterly ashamed because they have failed.

Their eternal dishonor

will never be forgotten. <sup>12</sup>Lord of Armies, you who test the righteous, who see the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for I have

revealed my cause to you. <sup>13</sup>Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord, for he has delivered the life of the needy from the grasp of the wicked. Evangelical Heritage

Version® (EHV)

### Psalm 33 (Spoken responsively)

P: Shout joyfully to the Lord, you righteous. The praise of the upright is beautiful.

C: Yes, the word of the Lord is right, and everything he does is trustworthy.

P: The Lord wrecks the plan of the nations. He hinders the intentions of the peoples.

C: The plan of the Lord stands forever. The intentions of his heart stand through all generations.

P: How blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

C: The people he chose to be his possession.

P: Our souls wait for the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

C: In him our heart rejoices, because we trust in his holy name.

P: May your mercy, O Lord, be on us,

C: Even as we wait confidently for you. (EHV)

Congregational Response: (sung) ELH 602

*“God Bless Our Native Land”*

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

For her our prayer shall rise 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!

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:24-33

(Jesus plainly tells us about the crosses we will bear as his disciples. We can expect the world to treat us no better than it treated our Master. What a comfort to know that our life, death, and eternal future are in the hands of a God who gives loving attention to creatures far less significant than we are! He takes careful inventory of the smallest details of our lives. Therefore, we are bold and cheerful in proclaiming his gospel in a hostile world.)

<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup>“Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (EHV)

### The Confession of Faith – 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

### Children’s Sermonette

Hymn: ELH 11 vs. 1, 4-5

*“Come, Holy Ghost, in Love”*

Come, Holy Ghost, in love Shed on us from above  
Thine own bright ray. Divinely good Thou art;  
Thy sacred gifts impart To gladden each sad heart.  
O come today!

**Exalt our low desires, Extinguish passion’s fires,**  
Heal every wound. Our stubborn spirits bend,  
Our icy coldness end, Our devious steps attend  
While heavenward bound.

Come, all the faithful bless; Let all who Christ confess  
**His praise employ. Give virtue’s rich reward,**  
Victorious death accord And, with our glorious Lord,  
Eternal joy.

Sermon: Romans 13:1-5

*“God Bless America with Faithful Servants!”*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God’s institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, <sup>4</sup> because he is God’s servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God’s servant,

a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience. (EHV)

Congregational Hymn: ELH 206

*"I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"*

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee,  
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood,  
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,  
Every day and hour supplying All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Offering Prayer TLH 584 vs. 1

Swell the anthem, raise the song; Praises to our God belong.  
*Saints and angels join to sing Praises to the heav'nly King.*  
Blessings from His liberal hand Flow around this happy land.  
Kept by Him, no foes annoy; Peace and freedom we enjoy. Amen.



Prayer of the Church:

P: Heavenly Father, look on our nation. See our many needs.

C: Do not, because of our sins, turn away from us; rather be merciful and grant your help in all that distresses us.

P: Increase the faith of all Christians,

C: That they may not fall prey to the sins that have so badly eroded our country.

P: Enable Christians, by bold professions of faith and godly lives

C: To be guiding lights that lead others to honor you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent.

P: Our Father, turn this nation from its false and vain philosophies; from its materialism, greed, selfishness, and moral corruption;

C: Restrain people and viruses that will harm us.

P: As Supreme Ruler, grant health, honesty, wisdom, fairness, and devotion to duty to all who are in authority. Give the ability to govern well to the President and Congress,

C: To the governors and legislators of the various states, and to judges, mayors, and law enforcement personnel.

P: Bless especially the Christians who are serving in the armed forces. By the Holy Spirit strengthen their faith and avert whatever might prove harmful to their souls.

C: Keep them from sinning.

P: Be with them in their lonely hours

C: And help them to accomplish their appointed duties.

P: Protect them in their many tasks, and

C: Bring them safely back to their homes and families.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring our private petitions to you.

Silent Prayer

P: We ask for this according to your gracious and good will.

C: Amen.

### 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.

### Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

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Closing Hymn: *“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”* (Tune ELH 602)

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside Let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God to Thee, Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!  
Alleluia!