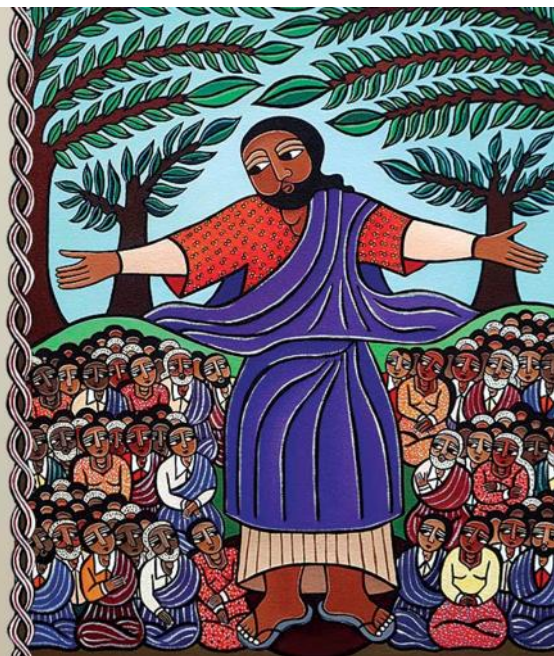


*I will  
give you  
rest*

**MATTHEW 11:28**



**US SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL  
July 5, 2026**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
34 E. Orange Street  
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993  
Web Site: [memluth.org](http://memluth.org)  
E-mail: [office@memluth.org](mailto:office@memluth.org)  
717-532-4614**

**Welcoming all  
Reaching out in love  
Growing together in Christ  
Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name**

**Reverend Godfred Effisah  
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)  
[pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)  
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

*Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!*

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”*

*- Callahan*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

*All make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy, **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of + Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit’s power strengthen you in doing what is good.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing or stand as you are able.*

## GATHERING HYMN "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

ELW 888

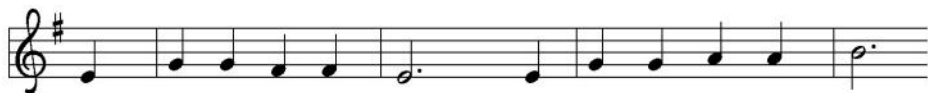
### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

### KYRIE

READ IN UNISON



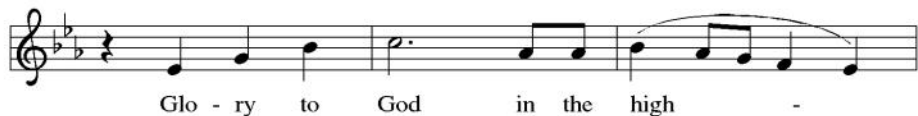
- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 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.  
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

Let us pray together.

**Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The king will come in humility and peace.*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

**ELW 841**

### SECOND READING

**Romans 7:15-25a**

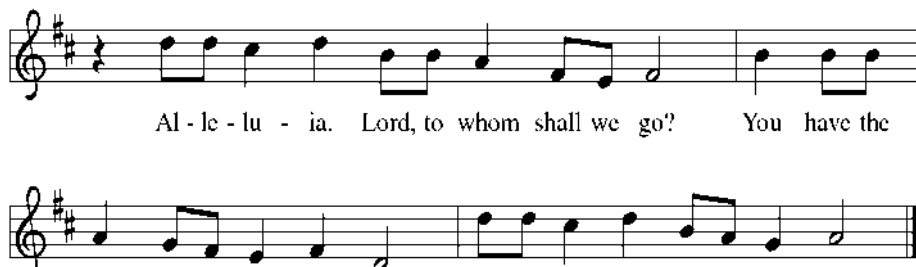
*The struggle within the self.*

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:25-30**

*The yoke of discipleship.*

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Susan Lyons**

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”  
ELW 771

## 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 into hell.  
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 OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations,  
and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out  
from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions  
we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public  
square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay  
leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gos-  
pel. God of the nations, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we thank You for the ideals upon which this country  
was founded. As we mark this 250th anniversary, we stand before you  
acknowledging our deep divisions. Where there is strife, help us find  
common ground. Where there is fear, plant trust in our hearts, that we  
may live together in peace and mutual respect. God of the nations,  
**hear our prayers.**

Lord, as our nation approaches its milestone, we pray for our President, lawmakers, and all in authority. Soften their hearts and expand their vision. May their decisions be rooted in truth and justice for all, replacing rhetoric and division with compassion, dignity, and a steadfast commitment to the common good. God of the nations, **hear our prayers.**

Almighty Father, we thank You for 250 years of Your faithfulness. We pray for a spiritual awakening and a new beginning. Forgive us for the ways we have strayed from Your path. Make us responsible stewards of the land, air, and resources entrusted to us, and guide us toward a future of hope and charity. God of the nations, **hear our prayers.**

Gracious God, as we celebrate our nation's history, we lift up those who are most vulnerable among us. We pray for immigrants, refugees, and the marginalized. Teach us to walk in deeper solidarity and grant that our society may always be a refuge of welcome, safety, and opportunity for all who seek it. God of the nations, **hear our prayers.**

Triune God, reign in our homes and in our nation. Draw every heart into communion with You, that Your truth, love, justice, mercy, and peace may triumph in America and throughout the world. God of the nations, **hear our prayers.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*Please greet those around you*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERTORY** *“This Is My Song”*

**Senior Choir**

*The Ushers will collect the offering.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**ELW 884**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

### **PREFACE FOR NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. You have entrusted to us as a nation the great gift of freedom, a gift that calls forth responsibility and commitment to the truth that all have a fundamental dignity before you. In Jesus, through his death and resurrection, we find our ultimate redemption, freedom from sin, and every blessing. And so, with hearts full of love and gratitude, we join the angels and saints, today and every day of our lives, to sing your glory as we acclaim:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Read Together*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

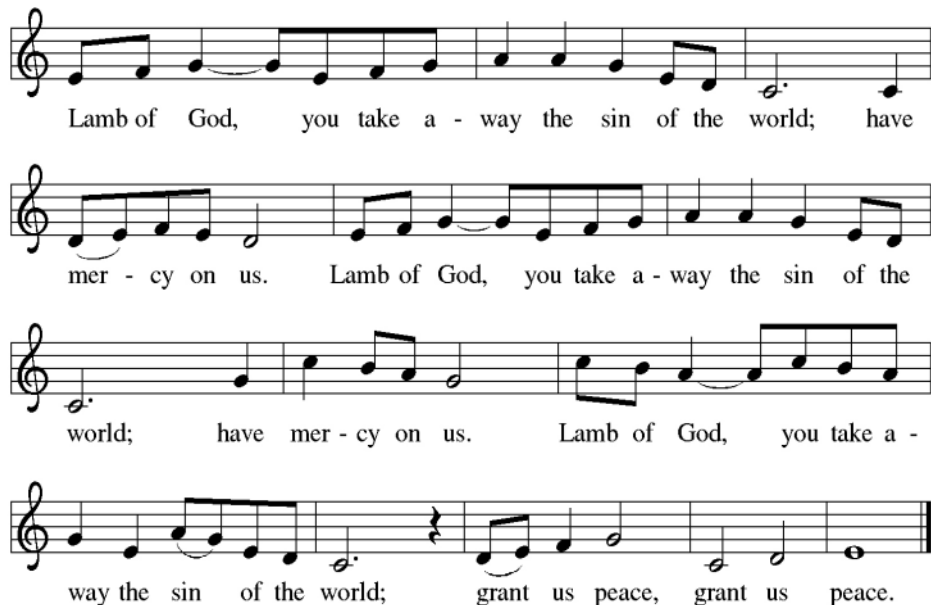
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.

## LAMB OF GOD

page 191



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and see that God is good to all.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together.

**We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE**

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest.

Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The presiding minister continues.*

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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.

**SENDING HYMN** *“God Bless Our Native Land”*

**ELW 891**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

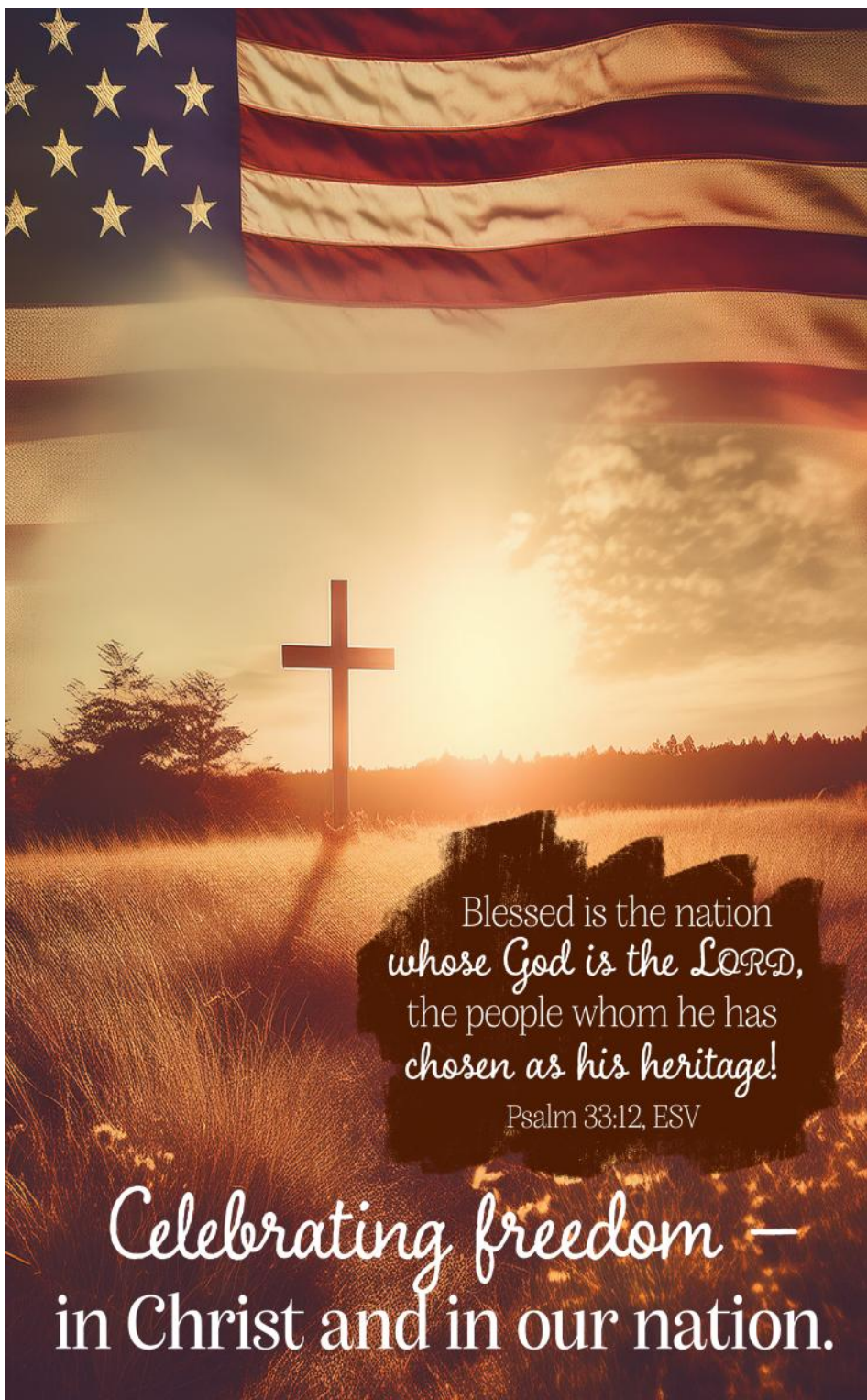
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *“God Bless America”*

*- Berlin*

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Blessed is the nation  
whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom he has  
chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12, ESV

*Celebrating freedom —*  
in Christ and in our nation.



**Mary Kay Dagenhart  
Doug & Pat Maun  
Jeanne Naugle  
Dorothy Railing  
Trina Ruth  
Wayne Widney  
All Caregivers**



**Pastor  
Pastor Godfred Effisah**

**Organist & Pianist  
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir / Bell Choir  
Director  
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator  
Amy Piper**

**Preschool Director/Head Teacher  
Emily Crider**

*Check out our church website using this QR Code!*

