

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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**“BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE
GOD IS THE LORD” (PSALM 33:12).**

6 p.m. Sat., April 28, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., April 29, 2018



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

(6 p.m. Sat., July 4 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., July 5, 2020)

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat. Ruthie Witte; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Jack Smith Team

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Elders: 6 p.m. Sat. Randy Johnson; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Ron Cason & Robert Greene

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat. Liz Sanders; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Dallas Schulz

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER Thank God for our nation! The celebration of Independence Day is not part of the traditional Church Year calendar. Rather, it is a national celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of our land. In observing the day, we are connected with the biblical record of God's people in times past who expressed thanks for the blessings that God had given to them through the nation of which they were part. The psalmist writes, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). As we bring our thankful praise to God, we ask that His blessing on our land would continue for generations.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRESERVICE MUSIC—"America, the Beautiful"

DIVINE SERVICE ONE

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(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

LSB 966

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm 111

P: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

C: in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

P: Great are the works of the LORD,

C: studied by all who delight in them.

P: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

C: and His righteousness endures forever.

P: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

C: the LORD is gracious and merciful.

P: He provides food for those who fear Him;

C: He remembers His covenant forever.

P: He has shown His people the power of His works,

C: in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

P: The works of His hands are faithful and just;

C: all His precepts are trustworthy;

P: they are established forever and ever,

C: to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

P: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

C: Holy and awesome is His name!

P: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

C: His praise endures forever!

**ALL: 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.**

Service of the Word

The Kyrie “Lord, Have Mercy” (*Sung*)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

This is the Feast (*Sung*)

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(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¹ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain)

² Power, riches, wisdom, and strength and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (Refrain)

³ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

⁴ Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (Refrain)

⁵ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

(Final Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you. (*Sung*)

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord of time and God of history, we ask You to keep our nation and its leaders under Your care. It is by Your grace and blessing alone that we can know peace and freedom. Direct and lead us to live justly with our neighbors,

peaceably in our communities, and joyfully in our land, seeking the common good. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading Micah 4:1–5 (Walking in the name of the Lord)

¹It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, ²and many nations shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³He shall judge between many peoples,

and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; ⁴but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

⁵For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

C: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Epistle Lesson Romans 13:1–7 (Civic life for Christians)

¹Let 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.

²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For 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,

⁴for 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.

⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia

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

(Please remain standing for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel Matthew 22:15–22 (Rendering to Caesar what is his)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

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

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the

test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They 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.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day “God Bless Our Native Land”

LSB 965

Sermon “Before You, Lord, We Bow” Romans 13:1-7

The Nicene Creed

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church, that the message of salvation be proclaimed joyfully throughout all the world and that those who faithfully share the Gospel and who live it out in their lives know blessing and contentment. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations of the world, that all would know times of peace and security. Grant that the leaders of our nation be endowed with wisdom and courage, that they seek the well-being of our people in every way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all workers in the Church, asking the blessings of holy wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors, deaconesses, and teachers. By their devoted service in response to their calling, grant that faith and faithfulness abound and Your kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for our nation as we rejoice in the freedoms we enjoy. We give You special thanks for all those who serve in the military, in medical professions, as educators, and as emergency personnel. Grant that we live out our citizenship with dedication and gratitude. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for special conditions and circumstances. By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *especially* Barbara Sampson. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Wanita Bishop, Larry Doerr, Brittini Donaldson, Bill Wheatcraft, Keisha Nichols, Delbert Johns, Lori Frick, Joni Perera and Frances Snyder. Lord in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

Matthew 6:21—For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

6 p.m. Offering -Solo by Piper McKay

8:15 a.m. Offertory Hymn

“America the Beautiful”

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain Majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country Loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine,

Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears! America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law. *(Public domain)*

(stand as you are able)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *(Sung)*

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P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy" (Sung) Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

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Words of our Lord

Pax Domini The Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

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

C: **Amen.** *(sung)*

Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God" (Sung) John 1:29*

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” LSB 717

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way” LSB 857

(Stand as you are able)

The Post Communion Collect

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P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

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.** (*sung*)

The Closing Hymn “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

LSB 791

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + +

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Before You, Lord, We Bow

Date: 07/04/2020

Text: Romans 13:1-7

Verse for Meditation

“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” Romans 13:1

Points to Ponder

1. Who is in ultimate charge of all that is and will be?
2. Why does God establish earthly government?
3. Does this mean government is beyond reproach?
4. What if we lived under one of the godless, ruthless dictators of the world?
5. _____ alone is in control of all lands and people and authorities and governments.
_____ alone exacts vengeance
_____ alone vindicates the faithful.

Before You, Lord, we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring In Joy and praise.

