



Lest
We
Forget...

A Christian Celebration For A National Holiday

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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National Holiday—5th Sunday after Pentecost “Lest We Forget” July 5, 2020

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the “Run, Hide, Fight” response in an emergency.

Covid-19 Precautions / Reminders:

1. Every other pew will be taped off to create social distance.
2. Weather permitting, the windows will be open to create as much airflow as possible.
3. The hymnals have been removed from the pews. The hymns will be sung out of the bulletin.
4. Worshippers are asked to pick up their own bulletin and take it home with them.
5. Offerings will be placed in the plate on the podium before or after the service.
6. The use of masks is encouraged but not mandatory. Masks are available in the entryway.
7. The pastor won't shake hands after the service.
8. Something to eat and drink will be offered after the service today in the fellowship hall, which has been cleared of tables and chairs to make social distancing possible.

Before Service Prayer: Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Today's Service: Hymns and songs used with permission under *the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.*

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN CW 619 "God Bless Our Native Land"

**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.**

**My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**

**Our Father's 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.**

**So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies, on whom we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we pray: God save the state.**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Heavenly Father; You have drawn the borders of Your earth and empowered its leaders.
People: Come be with us, O God most high.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, through Your death and resurrection You have made us citizens of the Kingdom of God.
People: Come be with us, O saving Lord.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, You guide us in Your way as we sojourn here on earth, leading us, at last, to the Promised Land of heaven.

People: Make us obedient children of God and faithful citizens here below.

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: Bless our native land!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God has blessed us so generously. We are living in America in the twenty-first century. But, just as our national and spiritual forbearers, we have not thought, spoken, or acted as God has commanded. For Jesus' sake, though, there is abundant grace and forgiveness. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

Silence of reflection on the Word of God and our own sinfulness.

Pastor: Gracious God,

People: we confess that we are sinful by nature and that in life we have ignored Your commands. We have regarded our lot in life as a deserved benefit and let our pride cover our faults and failings. We have been content to receive the freedom and prosperity of this land without giving You thanks and praise. We have failed to share Your bounty with those in our society less fortunate than ourselves, preferring to put our own comfort before our brothers' urgent needs. We have let the morality of the society around us speak louder than Your Word and will for us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake. Turn our hearts to Your will and our eyes to Your eternal promises. Open doors of opportunity in which we may reflect Your truth, mercy, and love in our sojourn until we enter the eternal Promised Land.

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus took all our sins with Him to the cross. The Father accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. By His death Christ destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored us to everlasting life. In the mercy of almighty God, all who die in faith will enter the Promised Land of heaven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Walk as children of promise to the praise of His holy name each day of your pilgrimage on earth.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.**

Refrain

**Glory! Glory, hallelujah! Glory! Glory, hallelujah!
Glory! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

Refrain

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.**

Refrain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 CHRONICLES 30:21-31:1 *(Independence Day for the Israelites was Passover. That day marked their release from bondage in Egypt and pointed ahead to the release the Lamb of God would win from slavery to sin and death and Satan. The Passover celebration was neglected for many years, until good king Hezekiah took the throne and sought to lead the people back to the Lord. Hezekiah re-opened the temple and restored the worship of the God of Israel.)*

²¹The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests praised the LORD every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the LORD.

²²Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the LORD. For the seven days they ate their assigned portion and offered fellowship offerings and praised the LORD, the God of their ancestors.

²³The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully. ²⁴Hezekiah king of Judah provided a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep and goats for the assembly, and the officials provided them with a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep and goats. A great number of priests consecrated themselves. ²⁵The entire assembly of Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, including the foreigners who had come from Israel and also those who resided in Judah. ²⁶There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. ²⁷The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, His holy dwelling place. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 85 vs. 8-13 *(tune, 576)*

I will listen to what God the LORD says; He promises peace to His people, His faithful servants.

**Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows.**

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land.

**Jesus bought our peace with God
With His holy precious blood.**

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Peace in Him for sinners found
In the gospel's joyful sound.**

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

**Peace within the Church still dwells
In her welcomes and farewells.**

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

**And through God's baptismal pow'r
Peace surrounds our dying hour.**

Righteousness goes before Him and prepares the way for His steps.

**Peace be with you, full and free,
Now and through eternity.**

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 2:1-4 *(Christians seek God's blessings on those in authority over us. When those in authority fail to act on behalf of the people, the people suffer. When those in authority do their job, God's people can live in peace, and can even celebrate the freedoms God gives to us as citizens of this country.)*

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 10:22-39 *(Jesus clearly identifies Himself as the Son of God. He does this while in Jerusalem, celebrating the Feast of Dedication, known today as Hanukkah. This feast celebrated the rededication of the temple and the driving out of a Greek king (Antiochus Epiphanes) who himself claimed to be a god.)*

²²Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews who were there gathered around Him, saying, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

²⁵Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in My Father’s name testify about Me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

³¹Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone Him, ³²but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone Me?”

³³“We are not stoning You for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because You, a mere man, claim to be God.”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are “gods”’? (Psalm 82:6) ³⁵If He called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— ³⁶what about the One whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? ³⁷Do not believe Me unless I do the works of My Father. ³⁸But if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” ³⁹Again they tried to seize Him, but He escaped their grasp. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lest We Forget” *(tune, CW 256)*

**Lest we forget—O heav’nly Father hear us,
As in the past Your presence was made known.
We cried for help; You graciously drew near us.
In our deep darkness Your bright light You shone.
Now in our need, we cry, O Lord, to You: Be with us yet, lest we forget.
Surround us with Your steadfast love anew. Be with us yet, lest we forget.**

**Lest we forget—O Christ, once dead but living,
You sent Your Spirit to Your Church in love,
Your grace proclaiming, all our sins forgiving,
That we might set our eyes on things above.
In all our need, we cry, O Lord, to You: Be with us yet, lest we forget.
Surround us with Your steadfast love anew. Be with us yet, lest we forget.**

**Lest we forget, O God of our salvation,
Our history in this most favored land,
Your overflowing blessings on our nation,
How You have led us with Your mighty hand,
With grateful hearts, we cry, O Lord to You: Be with us yet, lest we forget.
Surround us with Your steadfast love anew. Be with us yet, lest we forget.**

SERMON

CREEDAL HYMN (*tune, America the Beautiful*)

**In God the Father we believe, whose strong creative word
Put end to night: “Let there be light!”
That voice can still be heard,
Providing us, protecting us, inviting us to know
Our Father’s care shown ev’rywhere,
From whom all blessings flow.**

**Our trust we place in Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son,
Who came to earth in holy birth,
By whom God’s will was done.
The Crucified, for us He died, He rose from death and grave
To reign above and come in love,
His ransomed saints to save.**

**And we confess the Holy Ghost, by whom our hearts believe
The Word of God proclaimed abroad,
Whose blessings we receive.
Forgiven, we—in unity—shall triumph o’er all strife.
Our God be praised; we shall be raised
To everlasting life! (*tune: America the Beautiful*)**

OFFERING (*Can be placed in the plate on the bookstand either before or after the service.*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves, this nation, and all people according to their needs.

Pastor: We the people of the United States.

People: We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have ordained that we are citizens in this great land. Strengthen our resolve to reflect Your rule and will, both in our private living and also in the public arena. Through us may Your kingdom of grace be apparent in these United States.

Pastor: In order to form a more perfect union.

People: Unite our hearts, Lord Jesus, so that we may reflect Your compassionate love in our roles as citizens and civil servants, as friends and neighbors, as farmers and merchants, and as parents and children.

Pastor: Establish justice.

People: O Holy Spirit, give wisdom and insight to all who make and administer our laws. Shield them from the temptation that comes from power, and grant them hearts to serve the welfare of all the people.

Pastor: Insure domestic tranquility.

People: Where there is discord and distrust within our borders, heavenly Father, open doors of understanding and forgiveness. Raise up wise leaders in all the nations of the world so that we may live in concord with our neighbor states and that our enemies may seek peace and pursue it.

Pastor: Provide for the common defense.

People: Lord Christ, protect and guide all who serve in our Armed Forces. When they are deployed, be with their families. When they return, help us honor their dedication. Likewise, surround with Your care all who provide protection, emergency services, and health care here and everywhere in this great land.

Pastor: Promote the general welfare.

People: Heavenly Father, be with all who are unemployed and underemployed, those who are disabled and disheartened, all who struggle to find adequate food, clothing, or shelter, and all who are in need of healing. Open hearts and minds of individuals and charitable organizations, especially those who serve in Your Son's name, to meet their needs and join to praise Your grace and mercy.

(Special Intercessions)

Pastor: Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

People: For all Your blessings to those who established this land, Lord God, we give You thanks. For all the blessings that surround us now, Lord Jesus, we worship Your holy name. For the land of promise that awaits us, O Holy Spirit, we rejoice in the gift of faith that You have bestowed upon us in Your grace and mercy. Help us to instill Your Word of promise in the generations that come after us.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(tune CW 243)*

**Our Father on high, give ear to our prayer.
Your name, far and nigh, revered ev'rywhere.
Your kingdom come Sov'reign, and Your gracious will,
On earth as in heaven be done by us still.**

**The bread that we crave provide us each day.
Be near us to save from evil always.
In time of temptation Your strong guidance give;
As we forgive others, our sins, Lord, forgive.**

**For You, Lord, are King; almighty You reign.
Your glory we sing with grateful refrain.
Amen. From this hour so may it be done;
Your kingdom, Your power, Your glory alone!**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: O King of the nations,

People: we thank and praise You for creating our world, working through our government, and setting us free through Your sacrifice once and for all for the sins of the world. Guide us, Your people who have been blessed through the hearing and learning of Your word, in being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

People: to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. *(Jude 23–25)*

Pastor: The LORD has remembered us; He will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, He will bless the house of Aaron, He will bless those who fear the LORD, small and great alike.
(Psalm 115:12)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24–26)*

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord, never forgetting His goodness to you.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN CWS 785 "O Lord of Nations"

Lord of the nations, hear our prayer. We thank You for this land most fair,
Created by Your might. For mountain sunset, lake at dawn,
For woodland bloom and robin song, For stars that lace the night.

For farms and fields of golden grain, For science and for medicine,
For wealth beyond compare, For leisure time and work to do.
Lord, all these blessings come from You. Signs of Your loving care.

Most grateful, gracious God are we That in this country we are free
To Worship You above. We gather here to speak Your name,
The leave this place to spread Your fame That all may know Your love.

Forgive us Lord, when we forget Your gifts to share, Your word spread
To those who ache and bleed. Renew our will to help the weak,
To feed the hungry and to speak Your word to souls in need.

And for the leaders You ordained We pray, O Lord, that they remain
Courageous, honest, wise. Oh, give them guidance, make them strong
To stand for right, to battle wrong, That freedom's song may rise.

When storms and terror strike our land, Remove our fear and help us stand
Against our enemies. Lord may no wicked men prevail.
May ev'ry plot of treach'ry fail. May we remain at peace.

And when at last all nations fall And You return as Lord of all
To make the earth anew, Then may we join that shining band
Of saints from ev'ry tribe and land And make our home with You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week
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Cleaning this Week: LaPlante

Bible Classes this week: Bible Class in the Basement will take the week off and resume a study of the book of Numbers on July 15. Men's Bible class will meet on Friday at 11:30 AM to continue our study of selected Psalms.

VBS will be held the week of July 27-31. You can register your child / children for VBS by going to <http://newlife-wels.org/vbs.htm> We already have around 28 kids signed up. A staff meeting is planned for Wed., July 15 at 8:15 PM and a craft work night is scheduled for Wed., July 22 at 8:15 PM.

It appears Training Camp will take place this year. Registration deadline is June 20, the day t-shirts will be ordered. New Life parents are asked to pay the \$75 registration fee. The remaining \$250 is payed for by the congregation from Training Camp fund raising efforts. This is our way of sending “our” kids to camp.

New Life’s Annual Voter’s meeting will be held on Sunday, July 12 after the service. After the voter’s meeting a box lunch will be offered along with a bean bag tournament, held inside or outside.

The New Life Nominating Committee has come with the following slate of candidates for fiscal year 2020-21. Joe Berg, John Lester, Ken Sarvady, Brent Anderson and Mike Spangle, incumbents, have all consented to be nominated for another two-year term. Toby James, who was on Church Council prior to departing for graduate school, is being appointed to fill a position on church council.

A fellowship sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board downstairs. In light of Covid-19, if you wish to bring something for fellowship, make sure it’s individually wrapped.