

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

July 2, 2023 9:45 a.m.

GOD & COUNTRY SUNDAY

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship & Music
James Callison, Guitar Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Vocals
Allison McCumber, Vocals Brad McCumber, Guitar
James McDaniel, Drums Donna McDaniel, Vocals
Brad Milburn, Vocals Dana Bogdanski, Bass
Larry Peterson, Keys

☐ = Pastor ☑ = All ☒ = Leader

PRELUDE: FREEDOM REIGNS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OPENING SONG: MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

Verse 1

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 mountain side, let freedom ring.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

Our forebears' 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.

Text: Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895). Text is in Public Domain.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - July 4, 1776

☒ from The Declaration of Independence.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men
are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life,
Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

To secure these rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit
of Happiness—whenever any form of government
becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right
of the people to alter or abolish it.”

↑ DIALOGUE

☒ Please stand and let us read responsively
God's words entrusted to us.

God said, “Let us make humans in our image.”

Genesis 1:26

☑ **When God created humankind, he made them
in the likeness of God.**

Genesis 5:1

☒ The Lord God formed man from the dust of the
ground and then God breathed into his nostrils
the breath of LIFE.

Genesis 2:7

☑ **The spirit of God has made us, and the breath
of the Almighty gives us LIFE.**

Job 33:4

☒ In Him (Jesus) was LIFE, and the LIFE was
the light of all people. Jesus said: “I am the
light of the world, whoever follows me will
never walk in darkness but will have the light
of LIFE.

John 1:4; 8:12

☑ **“I came that they may have LIFE and
have it abundantly.**

John 10:10

☒ The Lord says: Proclaim LIBERTY to the
captives. Bring good news to the oppressed.
Bind up the brokenhearted.

Isaiah 61:1

☑ **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

☒ Therefore, stand firm, ... for we are called to
freedom, brothers and sisters.

Galatians 5:1

☑ **Jesus said, “I came that they may have LIFE
and have it abundantly.**

John 10:10

Come share my HAPPINESS with me.”

Matthew 25:21

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☒ Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, in whose Name the
founders of this country won liberty for
themselves and for us, and lit the torch of
freedom for nations then unborn: grant that we
and all the people of this land may have grace
to maintain our liberties working toward justice
and peace, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

☒ We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 6:12 and Isaiah 1:16-17

☒ The Old Testament lesson is from Deuteronomy, the sixth chapter, and from the Prophet Isaiah, the first chapter.

Respect the Lord your God, and do what he has told you to do. Love him.

Serve the Lord your God with your whole being,
¹⁷and learn to do right.

See that justice is done—help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows.”

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON: Galatians 5:13-14

☒ The New Testament lesson is from Paul’s Letter to the church in Galatia, the fifth chapter.

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom.

Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that’s how freedom grows. For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up in a single sentence:

Love others as you love yourself.

That’s an act of true freedom. (Amen)

☒ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ GOSPEL: Luke 4:18-24

☒ The Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom.



He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

~ *CHILDREN ARE EXCUSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHAPEL* ~

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ SONG OF THE DAY: THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

Verse 1

**The right hand of God is writing in our land,
Writing with power and with love,
Our conflicts and our fears,
Our triumphs and our tears,
Are recorded by the right hand of God.**

Verse 2

**The right hand of God is pointing in our land,
Pointing the way . . . we must go,
So clouded is the way,
So easily we stray,
But we're guided by the right hand of God.**

Verse 3

**The right hand of God is striking in our land,
Striking out at envy, hate, and greed.
Our selfishness and lust,
Our pride and deeds unjust,
Are destroyed by the right hand of God.**

Verse 4

**The right hand of God is healing in our land,
healing broken bodies, minds, and souls,
So wondrous is its touch
With love that means so much,
When we're healed by the right hand of God.**



Verse 1

**The right hand of God is writing in our land,
Writing with power and with love,
Our conflicts and our fears,
Our triumphs and our tears,
Are recorded by the right hand of God.**

Text: Patrick Prescod Music: Noel Dexter

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

- P** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C** **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 to the dead.**
- 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.**

from **PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**

- L** "It is for us, the living ... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought ... have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to ... take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that ... [our] dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that the government: of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."
- C** **God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**
- L** "Be still, then, and know that I am God."

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "God, in your mercy," please respond, "**hear our prayer.**"
When the prayers conclude, please respond, "**Amen.**"

OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>
We acknowledge that you may have given Online or through the mail. Thank you.

**OFFERING SONG: FIREWORK****THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- 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 our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**
- Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us
from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH
or at home with your household**

*Please approach the altar as directed by an usher.
You will be offered a wafer, and you may dip it
into the chalice containing wine or white grape juice.
Or, you may choose a prepackaged kit.
(including Gluten-free versions)*

COMMUNION SONG: GOD BLESS THE USA**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING and BENDICTION**

- P** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL*Verse 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.**

Verse 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 ev'ry gain divine.**

Verse 3

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
 Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
 America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, Confirm
 thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

Text: Katherine Lee Bates, 1859-1929 Text is in Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

- L** Go in peace. Serve in love.
 Invite all to join in connecting
 to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE