

***“Humble Grace”***  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**JULY 7, 2024**  
**Mount Olive Lutheran Church**  
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## OPENING HYMN

## LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

LSB 837

### Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain  
trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

### Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.

### Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.

### Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.

### Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.

### Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

### Refrain

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

*based on John 3:16; 8:36; Romans 5:1*

Pastor: In the name of the Father,  
**People: who loved us and sent His Son to set us free.**

Pastor: In the name of His ✕ Son, Jesus,  
**People: whose sacrifice gives us freedom and peace.**

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
**People: who brings us to faith and sustains our faith through the working of water and the Word. Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, You have blessed us with a free land, having rights and privileges others dream about. We live in a land where liberty is given to us. With freedom also comes temptation to misuse our freedom.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, for misusing freedom in selfish ways. Keep us from squandering the precious opportunities You have given to us by the many freedoms we have.**

Pastor: For these sins and all sins, sins of thought, word, and deed; by what we have done or failed to do,

**People: we stand before You now, asking Your forgiveness, and for the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. He has called me, a called and ordained servant of our King, to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive that forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen! Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me. Help me, by the aid of Your Holy Spirit, to relish the freedoms You have given us as Christians and as a country.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Almighty and gracious God, You have given our country a precious gift—the gift of freedom. As we celebrate that gift from You today, help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to remember the greater gift of freedom in the cross and empty tomb of Jesus, who gives us freedom now and eternally, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Lord, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

<sup>1</sup>He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." <sup>2</sup>And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark beginning at the sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." <sup>5</sup>And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ**

## EZEKIEL 2:1-5

transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' <sup>5</sup>And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them."

## 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*Stand*

## MARK 6:1-13

And he went about among the villages teaching.

<sup>7</sup>And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,\* the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

\*The ancient text: the holy catholic Church  
*Sit*

## CHILDRENS SERMON

### SERMON HYMN

### O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

LSB 733

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

### SERMON

“Humble Grace”

### OFFERING

*Stand*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, Your death on the cross has set us free from our worst enemies—sin, death, and the devil. In Holy Baptism, You made us Your own, and gave us not only the forgiveness of sins but also Your Holy Spirit. Help us live in that freedom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, You have given us a great gift in the freedom we have as a country and as individuals. Grant that we always use our freedom to advance Your kingdom, and never to bring harm to anyone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father in heaven, as we celebrate our independence on this day, grant that we might find joy in the parades, the barbeques, the gatherings, and the fireworks. As we enjoy these things, grant that we have a bigger picture of freedom in mind—freedom in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** While we celebrate our national freedom today, there are those who are not free because of their faith in You. They are imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and some will die for Your name. Give them strength by Your Holy Spirit to remain faithful unto death and receive the crown of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We also lift up those not free today because of illness, [*especially* . . .]. According to Your gracious will, release them from illness, pain, and suffering, using doctors, nurses, medicines, and miracles if it be Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We also remember those who are not free: the marginalized, the poor, those addicted to drugs, the homeless, and those suffering from fear. Show compassion to them and help them in their hour of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We are called by Your Word to remember our leaders. We remember those who lead our nation: our president, our Congress, those who lead at the state and even local levels. Give them wisdom to govern this great land that we might always be free. We also ask that You would give every leader in authority in our world a desire for peace and not war. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We lift these and the petitions of our hearts up to You, gracious Father, knowing that You will both hear and answer us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who set us free to be Your people; who with You and the Holy Spirit reigns, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE      GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND – MY COUNTRY TIS OF THEE

1 God bless our native land; firm may it 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.

2 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 cry: God save the state!

3 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!

4 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.

## BENEDICTION      *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

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 THE BEAUTIFUL

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

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Public Domain: O God, Our help in ages past, America the Beautiful, My Country 'Tis of Thee, The Church's One Foundation, God Bless our Native Land,