

The Third Sunday of
PENTECOST

June 29, 2025

**FREEDOM
FEST**



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Rev. Dr. John L. Heins
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Ronald Guettler
Assisting Pastor
Rev. James Rolf
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Peter Nickel
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Alan Eisinger
Assisting Pastor
Rev. Dr. Gerberding, *Emeritus*
Rev. J. Gruetzner, *Emeritus*

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Lutheran Church

June 29, 2025

PRELUDE

"Highland Cathedral"

Charles Callahan

PROCESSIONAL

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF CANADA

♪ O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

♪ Oh say can you see, By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed, At the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, Were so gallantly streaming.

And thy rocket's red glare, Thy bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night, That our flag was still there.
Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

ANTHEM

*"Bless America" Highland Cathedral, arr. Osterland
St. Andrew's Bagpipe Band and the Historic Trinity Cathedral Choir*

*Bless America, the land we love. Shower blessings on her from above.
Unite our hearts and minds, Lord, as we pray, One in service to our God this day.*

*Lord, forgive us when we fail, May truth and justice ever prevail.
Guide our leaders. Help us be A beacon for all to see.*

*Bless America, our own dear land. Firm in honor may she ever stand.
Grant peace and abundance and prosperity Shared by all in deep humility.*

*Save us from all fear and doubt, From violence within and terror without.
God, Creator, may we be A people strong and free.*

*Praise to God the Father, praise His Son, Praise the Spirit, ever Three in One.
Raise a song of joy from sea to sea, Praise the holy, blessed Trinity!*

INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b*

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

People: ♪ **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: God makes known to us the path of life;

People: **in His presence, there is fullness of joy.**

Pastor: My heart is glad;

People: **my whole being rejoices.**

Pastor: For freedom, Christ has set us free.

People: **So we stand firm, using our freedom to love one another.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That is not how we always use our freedom. We have used our freedom for our own selfish gain, for our own gratification and ambition. As we come into God's house, we confess that we have used His gift of freedom wrongly and plead for His forgiveness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
 People: **we confess that we have not always used our freedom to love and serve our neighbors. In our freedom we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned in what we have done and what we have left undone. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive and free us from our bondage to sin.**

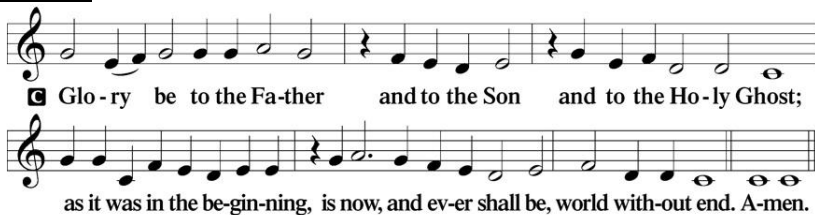
Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives all your sins and frees you to live as His disciple. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son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

People: **♪ Amen.**

THE INTROIT *Psalm 85:8-10; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor/Choir: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

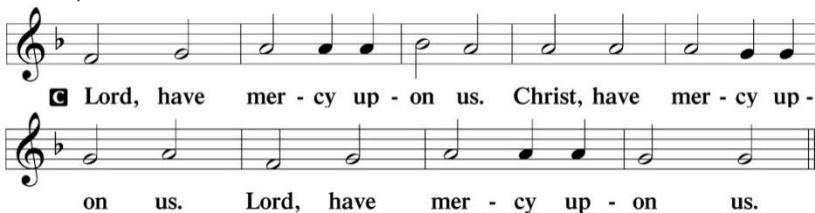
THE GLORIA PATRI



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THE KYRIE *Mt 9:27, 15:22*

People:



☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored”

tune: LSB 892

1 Christ, by heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, Gra - cious, might - y,
2 On our fields of grass and grain Send, O Lord, the
3 Give us rul - ers faith - ful, true, Such as love and

sov-'reign Lord, God of na - tions, King of kings,
kind - ly rain, And through - out this spa - cious land,
hon - or You; Let the pow - ers You or - dained

Head of all cre - at - ed things,
Crown the la - bors of each hand.
Be in righ - teous - ness main - tained.

By the Church with joy con - fessed,
Let Your kind pro - tec - tion be
In the peo - ple's hearts in - crease

God the Son for - ev - er blessed, Plead - ing at Your
O - ver com - merce on the sea. O - pen, Lord, Your
Love of pi - e - ty and peace. Thus u - nit - ed,

throne we stand, Save Your peo - ple, bless our land.
boun - teous hand; Bless Your peo - ple, bless our land.
we shall stand One wide, free, and hap - py land.

THE SALUTATION 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:



☐ And with thy spir - it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, giver of all good things, bind our hearts and minds to You, that we use our freedom for the sake of our neighbors and bear abundant fruit; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ Amen.

ANTHEM

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

*arr. Roy Ringwald
The Cathedral Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:9b–21

(God reassures Elijah and sends him back to his people.)

⁹ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

(For freedom, Christ has set us free.)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus, have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Distant Land"

(Prayer for Freedom)

John Rutter

The Cathedral Choir

*I see a distant land: it shines so clear. Sometimes it seems so far, sometimes so near.
Come, join together, take the dusty road; Help one another: share the heavy load.
The journey may be long: no end in sight: There may be hills to climb, or giants to fight:
But if you'll take my hand, We'll walk together toward the land
Of freedom, freedom, freedom.*

*I hear a distant song: it fills the air. I hear it, deep and strong, rise up in prayer:
'O Lord, we are many; help us to be one. Heal our divisions: let thy will be done.'
I know the time will come when war must cease: A time of truth and love, a time of peace.
The people cry, 'How long? Till all our world can join the song
Of freedom, freedom.'*

*I touch a distant hand and feel its glow, The hand I hoped was there: at last I know.
Swords into ploughshares: can it all be true? Friends out of strangers: start with me and you.
I see another time, another place Where we can all be one, one human race.
The walls will melt away, We'll come together on the day
Of freedom, freedom, freedom.*

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

(Some reject Jesus; others follow Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

People: 
Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

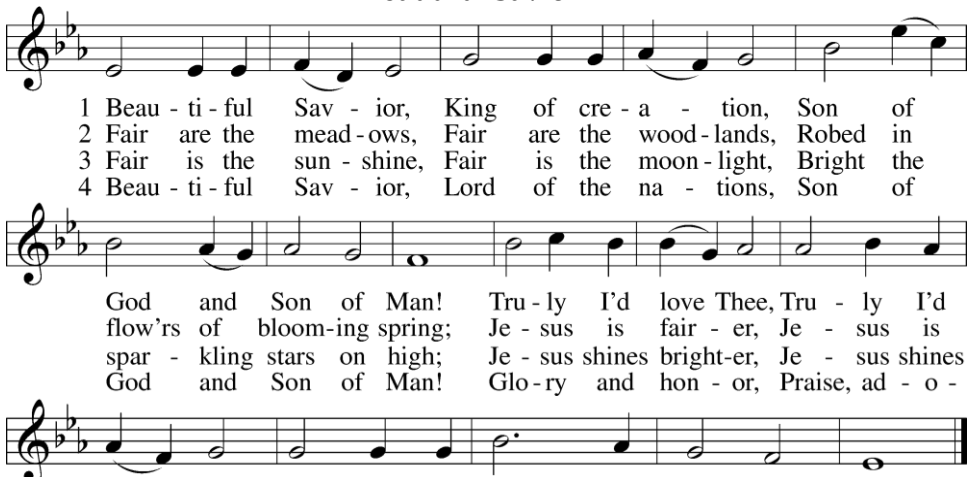
⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: 
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB 537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of
God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -
serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!



SERMON

"Say It With a Chest"

*Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski, Senior Pastor
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Royal Oak, MI*

Galatians 5:1

OFFERTORY

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.



VOLUNTARY

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Charles Ore

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM

"Amazing Grace"

St. Andrew's Bagpipe Band

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

1 Kings 8:56-60, Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people, as he promised.

People: Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave.

Pastor: May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

People: **May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands.**

Pastor: And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people according to each day's need

People: **so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The † Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB 733

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

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

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

POSTLUDE

"Stars and Stripes Forever"

John Phillip Sousa
Alana Meeker, Piccolo