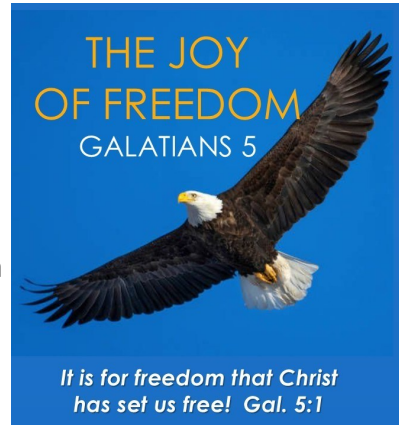


Freedom - Part 1
The Joy of Freedom
United States—250th Anniversary



AS WE GATHER

Today we celebrate freedom! We are blessed to live in a nation in which we are free to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. Today we rejoice as our country celebrates 250 years of freedom, and we celebrate an eternity of freedom that is ours in Jesus Christ!

+ INVOCATION +

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURES

God Bless Our Nation

Pastor: It is for freedom,

People: **That Christ has set us free!**

Galatians 5:1

Pastor: If you continue in My Word, you will know the truth,

People: **And the truth will set you free!**

John 8:32

Pastor: So if the Son sets you free,

People: **You will be free indeed!**

John 8:36

Pastor: Blessed is the nation,

People: **Whose God is the Lord.**

Psalms 33:12

Pastor: Righteousness exalts a nation,

People: **But sin is a reproach to any people**

Proverbs 14:34

Pastor: May the Lord give strength to his people!

People: **May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Psalms 29:11

Pastor: May God bless our native land!

People: **God bless America!**

965 God Bless Our Native Land



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!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813-83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813-93, alt.
 Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, c. 1740, London text and tune: Public domain

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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

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

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +
HYMN OF PRAISE – This is the Feast *LSB 155*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 14:10-14, 21-22*
(God miraculously gives His people freedom from slavery.)

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM *Psalm 33:12,16-22*

¹²Blessèd is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

¹⁶The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
¹⁹that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
²¹For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

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.

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 5:1-6

(Jesus Christ gives us true freedom.)

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ²Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:16-22

(Jesus comes to set the captives free.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and 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,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
 begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.**

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



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.

**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!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727
Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

THE OFFERING *(Offering plates are located in the back of the church.)*

THE OFFERTORY *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 pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!
3. 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!
4. O beautiful for patriot dream, That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, on this 250th anniversary of our country's independence, help us to remember that You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we 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. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and

loyalty. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, it is for freedom that You have set us free. We thank you for rescuing us from the power of sin and death that we may receive Your gift of eternal life, Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: For all those in need [especially _____], Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

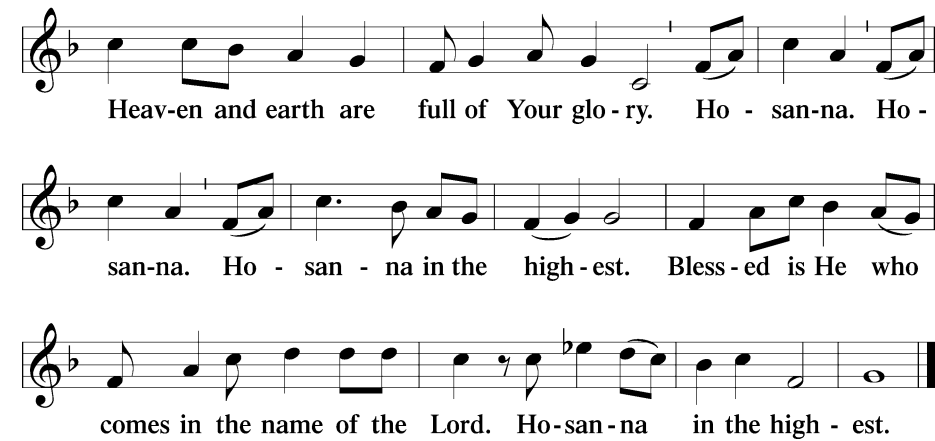
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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

LSB 161



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

LW 499 Christ By Heavenly Hosts Adored (Tune: LSB 892)

1. Christ by heav'nly hosts adored, Gracious mighty sov'reign Lord,
God of nations, King of kings, Head of all created things,
By the Church with joy confessed, God the Son forever blessed,
Pleading at Your throne we stand, Save your people, bless our land.
2. On our fields of grass and grain, Send, O Lord, the kindly rain.
And throughout this spacious land, Crown the labors of each hand.
Let Your kind protection be, Over commerce on the sea,
Open, Lord, Your bounteous hand; Bless Your people, bless our land.
3. Give us rulers, faithful true, Such as love and honor you;
Let the powers You ordained, be in righteousness maintained.
In the people's hearts increase, Love of piety and peace.
Thus united, we shall stand, One wide, free and happy land.

LW 501 God of Our Fathers

1. God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor thro' the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by thee our lot is cast ;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
 Lead us from night to never-ending day ;
 Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
 And glory, laud and praise be ever thine.

832 Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
 2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
 leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
 Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793
 Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord

LSB 164

☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear His name.

He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen.

966 Before You Lord We Bow



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
 2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
 3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
 4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
 5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
 From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
 Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
 Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor - ship Him a - lone. Cast down
 From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
 bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
 'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
 your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
 less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
 Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SERVE

Organ and Piano: Katie Cobert
Song Leader: Susan De Loose
Camera: Bruce Hunt
PowerPoint: Izzy Kershaw
Lay Assistant: Adam Schroeder

FREEDOM



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free! Gal. 5:1

SERMON SERIES FOR JULY

- JULY 5 THE JOY OF FREEDOM
GALATIANS 5
- JULY 11-12 THE PRICE OF FREEDOM
JOHN 15
- JULY 18-19 THE CHOICE OF FREEDOM
1ST PETER 2
- JULY 25-26 LIVING IN FREEDOM
JOHN 8