



Union Lutheran Church

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Patriotic Celebration

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 live to make men free,
while God is marching on.

July 7, 2024

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

P=Pastor, C =Congregation

PRAYER

P Let us pray, dear God, as we face these uncertain times in our nation and the world, we ask you, Lord, to dwell among us. We are comforted by the knowledge that You alone are our Savior and Lord, and the ultimate Master of life. We trust our nation to Your loving care, Lord. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. Give us Your light and Your truth to guide us in our ways so that we may seek Your will in our lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name we pray.

C **Amen**

PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION

(Each selection offers a brief interlude to allow time for reading.)

My Country, 'tis of Thee (is an American patriotic hymn written in 1831 by a Baptist seminary student, Samuel Francis Smith. Smith composed the lyrics after being inspired by a German Lutheran hymn and set the melody to the tune of "God Save the King.")

**My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!**

**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.**

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808–1895

Music: From Thesaurus Musicus, London, 1744

O, Beautiful for Spacious Skies (Katharine Lee Bates first wrote the lines to “*America the Beautiful*” after a stirring visit to Pikes Peak in 1893. But the story behind the song begins with Katharine herself, who pushed beyond conventional expectations of women to become an acclaimed writer, scholar, suffragist, and reformer. Katharine believed in the power of words to make a difference, and in “*America the Beautiful*,” her vision of the nation as a great family, united from sea to shining sea, continues to uplift and inspire us all.)

**Oh, 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.**

Text: Katherine Lee Bates, 1859–1929

Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

God of Our Fathers (is a 19th-century American Christian hymn, written in 1876 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence. The hymn was chosen for the celebration of the Centennial of the United States Constitution.)

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907

Music: George W. Warren, 1828–1902

God Bless Our Native Land (using the same tune as “My Country ‘Tis of Thee, the words to “God Bless our Native Land” were written by Charles Brooks while a student at Harvard Divinity School with additions and alterations by John Dwight. Both men were born the same year (1813) and both were ordained ministers. The lyrics appeared in print as a hymn in 1845 and serve as a prayer to God asking for continual guidance and safety for America.)

**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.**

**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!**

*Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1812-1883, st. 1; John S. Dwight, 1813-1893, st 2; alt.
Tune: Thesarurus Musicus, London, 1744*

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