



**CHRIST OUR
REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FREEDOM'S
HOLY LIGHT**

**JULY 6, 2008
PASTOR MARK S.
VOSS**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We begin in the name of the Father who said, "Let there be Light."

C: In the name of the Son, who is Light.

P: In the name of the Spirit, who shines in the communion of all the saints.

C: Amen

**Sing: 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.**

Text: Samuel F. Smith, Tune AMERICA

P: Freedom's holy light shines upon us from our God.

C: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

C: This is the message that we heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

P: I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

C: Freedom's holy light shines upon us from our God.

**Sing: 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.**

P: We shine with freedom's holy light. We bring light to this dark world.

C: You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

P: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

C: By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

P: Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

C: We shine with freedom's holy light. We bring light to this dark world.

***Sing: 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.***

CONFESSION OF SINS

ALL: Lord God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Forgive my open sins and my secret sins. Forgive the sins I know and the sins I do not know. Forgive the sins I did to please myself and the sins I did to please others. Forgive them all, gracious Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

P: As a called and ordained servant of God, and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live in the peace of your forgiveness and serve God faithfully as dual citizens of heaven and earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 36:5-7 ⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. ⁷How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Response

Melody CW612

***Tow'ring as the mountains height is your justice and your right.
Boundless as the ocean tide is your mercy, deep and wide.
Of your love creation sings from the shelter of your wings.***

Psalm 36:8-10 ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. ⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. ¹⁰Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

***From you, Lord, life's fountain flows;
In your light the true Light glows.
Source of faithfulness and light, in your light do we see light.
Alleluia! Glory be to the Lord eternally!***

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:13-18 ¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn – CW394

“Blessed Are the Saints of God”

“FREEDOM’S HOLY LIGHT”

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Sing:

Tune CW551

**In God we trust, Lord of eternity, By whose strong Word creation came to be,
Lord of the nations, clothed in majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia**

**In God we trust, the Father’s own true Son,
By whose strong death our freedom has been won,
And by whose rising new life is begun. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**In God we trust, the Holy Spirit dear, Whose inspiration shines the Gospel clear
That all the world the saving Word may hear. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Offering and Prayer for Our Nation - page 130 in Christian Worship

Lord’s Prayer: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

LORD’S SUPPER

The Bible teaches that receiving the Lord’s Supper together is a public statement of our unity and agreement in the faith. If you are a visitor and have not communed with us before, we ask that you speak with our pastor outside the service before communing. It is our hope that we can share with you our beliefs from the Bible about our Savior and this Sacrament. Thank you.

Invitation and Words of Institution

Agnus Dei (Sing)

CW397 v 1 & 5 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**Just as I am, without one plea But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Distribution and Meditation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

P: You are the light of the world.

C: A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

P: In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.



Closing Song

“God Bless Our Native Land”

CW619 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

**God bless our native land!
Firm may she 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.**

**For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies; On him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry, God save the state!**