

Independence Weekend
July 4-5, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE (w/ ANTHEM INCLUDED-CENTRAL ALL, LW)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

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PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "SURELY THE PRESENCE"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace_.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings.

I see glory on each face.

Surely the pre - sence of the Lord is in this place.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

**1 Mine eyes have seen the glory /
of the coming of the Lord; /
he is trampling out the vintage /
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
*he has loosed the fateful lightning /
of his terrible swift sword: /
his truth is marching on.**

**Ref. Glory, glory! Hallelujah! / Glory, glory! Hallelujah! /
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! / His truth is marching on.**

**2 He has sounded forth the trumpet /
that shall never call retreat; /
he is sifting out the hearts of men /
before his judgment seat.
*Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; /
be jubilant, my feet! /
Our God is marching on. (*Refrain*)**

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
- C And also with you.**

ANTHEM (*SOUTH CAMPUS ONLY*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray together.**
- C You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE/ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you,
we lift_ high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.**

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LESSON OF THE DAY

Romans 7:15-25a

The lesson begins:

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

P The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open_ now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak un - til our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

🎙️ Glory to You, O Lord.

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎙️ Praise to you, O Christ.

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SERMON

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SERMON RESPONSE

We will build our lives upon God's love.

It is a firm foundation and we will put our trust in Him Alone and we will not be shaken_.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P Oh God, in our scripture lesson today, the explanation Saint Paul gives of our sinful natures is still true today. For when we desire to do good, we cannot carry it out. We do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. However, we delight in your law and are thankful that Jesus Christ rescues us and separates us from the evil of this world. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

- P** Oh God, we come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for 250 years of blessings upon this land. From the first seeds of liberty to the freedoms we cherish today, your hand has guided and sustained us. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer
- P** Forgive us where we have strayed, and lead us back to paths of righteousness. Bless our leaders with wisdom, integrity, and humility. Strengthen our communities with compassion, justice, and unity. Protect those who serve in defense of our freedoms and comfort the families who bear the cost of that service. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer
- P** God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, those who grieve, or who are in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer
- P** Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

THE OFFERING

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THE OFFERTORY “PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY”

Praise to you, O God of mercy; thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly; thanks be to you forever!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise

- P** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

**Holy Holy Holy Holy, Lord, God of pow'r and might_,
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosannah_ in the highest.
Bless'd is He who comes in Your name_,
Hosannah_ in the highest!**

- P** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(SPOKEN)*

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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THE COMMUNION is given and received.

(w/ OPTIONAL ANTHEM or HYMN INCLUDED)

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "God Bless Our Native Land

- 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_ a - loud we cry: / God_ save the state!**

DISMISSAL

- ☐** Let us go forth in the name of the Lord,
☑ To know Christ, and to make Christ known.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.