



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

10:30 Holy Communion

What does the Bible say about government? How do Christianity and government interact? These are age old questions and they are full of subtleties. Today we turn to Romans 13 to find the core of Christian thought about government.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
(For music see Hymn 888 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesty 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 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 ev'ry gain divine.**
3. **O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929. Music: Samuel A Ward, 1848-1903

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful 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 who 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.

Hymn of Praise Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
(For music see Hymn 890 in the Red Hymnal)

- 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.**

Refrain **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 judgement seat.
Oh be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Refrain***

- 3. 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 die* to make men free,
while God is marching on. *Refrain***

* As originally written. Many modern hymnals substitute "live."
Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910. Music: North American, 19th century

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 1 Peter 2:11-17

B: Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹²Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 8:12-21 *(Read responsively)*

D: I, wisdom, live with prudence,
and I attain knowledge and discretion.

C: The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.

**Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.**

D: I have good advice and sound wisdom;
I have insight, I have strength.

**C: By me kings reign,
and rulers decree what is just;**

D: by me rulers rule,
and nobles, all who govern rightly.

**C: I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.**

D: Riches and honor are with me,
enduring wealth and prosperity.

**C: My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.**

D: I walk in the way of righteousness,
along the paths of justice,

**C: endowing with wealth those who love me,
and filling their treasuries.**

Second Reading Romans 13:1-10

D: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 24:42,44)

C: Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:15-22

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the

coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Before You, Lord, We Bow
(For music see Hymn 893 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Before you, Lord, we bow,
our God who reigns above
and rules the world below
with boundless pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,
our hearts we raise, to you we sing!**
2. **May ev’ry mountain height,
each vale and forest green,
shine forth in wisdom’s light
and its rich fruits be seen!
May ev’ry tongue be tuned to praise
and joy to raise a grateful song.**
3. **Earth, hear your maker’s voice;
your great redeemer own;
believe, obey, rejoice,
and worship God alone.
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore,
and bow before the Crucified.**
4. **And when in pow’r he comes,
oh, may then ev’ry land
from all its rending tombs
send forth a glorious band,
a countless throng, with joy to sing**

to heav'n's high king salvation's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt. Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

During the offertory you are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

† MEAL †

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Loving God:

**C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste
your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the
Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the
church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and
in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death
and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow;

and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat.
This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to
drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the
remembrance of me.”

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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: Come to this table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive
communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer
a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if
you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses.*

As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

891 *God Bless Our Native Land (Red Hymnal)*

713 *O God of Every Nation (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

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.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *This Is My Song*

(For music see Hymn 887 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This is my song. O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

2. **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.**

**But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

- 3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you, let your will be done.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st.3. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957. Text sts. 1-2 copyright 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co., st. 3 copyright 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. Music copyright Breitkopf & Hartel

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Emma Deibler
Counters	
Coffee Hour	Apple Pie and Ice Cream

Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 12

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Counters	
Coffee Hour	

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