

THE 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | PROPER 9 A THANKSGIVING SERVICE TO GOD FOR OUR NATION - JULY 05, 2026

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**All those able, please stand*

Preparing for Worship: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." Philippians 3:20-21

Welcome and Greetings in Jesus' Name

***Opening Song:** "America the Beautiful" *MATERNA*

Verse 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

Verse 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

Verse 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

Words by Katharine Lee Bates (1893). Copyright © Public Domain.

*Call to Worship:

We gather to worship God with our full, imperfect selves, remembering that we are citizens on earth and citizens in heaven, eagerly awaiting our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is making all things new.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

We gather as people who do not always know what to do in the face of difficult and complex circumstances, yet we trust that God is placing all things under Christ's reign and will transform us by his mighty power.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

We gather as people who desire to follow God with our actions but struggle to connect what we want to do with what we do. Even so, the Spirit is at work within us, shaping us into the likeness of Christ until the day our humble lives are transformed to reflect his glorious life.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

We gather today to give thanks for the small moments of goodness that remind us God's grace is still at work among us; know that our hope rests not in the passing things of this world but in the living Christ, who has claimed us as citizens of his eternal kingdom.

We come to delight in the law of God, whose grace shows us how to live, work, play, and rest as a community of faith woven together by Love. Through the power of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who transforms us into his glorious likeness, let us worship God! Amen.

Adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026. Used with permission.

*Opening Prayer

Song of Faith "My Country 'Tis of Thee" *AMERICA* (Thesaurus Musicus)

Verse 1: My country; 'tis of thee

Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring

Verse 2: 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

Verse 3: Let music swell the breeze **Verse 4: Our fathers' God to Thee**

And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song
Let mortal tongues awake
Let all that breathe partake
Let rocks their silence break
The sound prolong

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

Words by Samuel Francis Smith (1832). Copyright © Public Domain.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Fran Seymour Hunter

The First Reading

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Reader: Deacon Sonia Roling

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand)**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

***Responsorial (Stand)**

"O God, Our Help In Ages Past

ST. ANNE

Verse 1:

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home

Verse 3:

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same

Verse 9:

Our God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home

Words by Isaac Watts (1719). Copyright © Public Domain.

***Greeting our Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

The Children's Sermon

(No Children's Church – Summer Recess)

Announcements, Prayers of the People, and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – Gracious Redeemer, you know us completely—our good intentions, our wavering will, our stumbling steps. Like Paul, we confess the war within us: we long to do what is right, yet too often fall short. Still, you meet us not with condemnation, but with mercy and grace. So, we bring these offerings, not to earn your favor, but to respond in gratitude for a Savior who rescues us from sin's grip. Use these gifts, and use us, to offer hope where there is despair, light where there is shadow, and love where there is brokenness. We give because you gave first—and because your Spirit empowers us to live not by our strength, but by your grace. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen. (Romans 7:15-25a).

Offertory Special

"God of Our Fathers"

NATIONAL HYMN

Verse 1: 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 Thy throne arise

Verse 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

Verse 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

Words by Daniel C. Roberts (1876). Copyright © Public Domain.

A Prayer of Illumination & Message

"Bless God, America"

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Hymn (Stand)** **“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”** *BATTLE HYMN*

Chorus

**Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
His truth (our God) is marching on**

Verse 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 hath loosed the fateful lightning
Of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on

Verse 2:

I have seen Him in the watchfires
Of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar
In the evening dews and damps
I can read His righteous sentence
By the dim and flaring lamps
His day is marching on

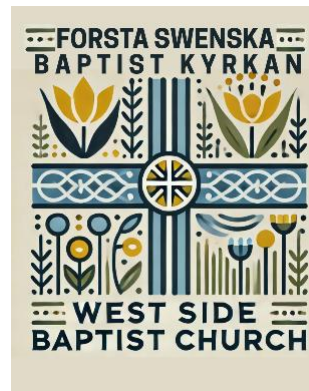
Verse 4:

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

Words by Julia Ward Howe (1862). Copyright © Public Domain.

*Spoken Benediction & Postlude

OUR MISSION – We love God, and we love People by sharing the Good News of God’s forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



West Side Baptist Church
Presents

4TH
OF
JULY

Worship in the Park

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606

Phone: (785) 233-4241 | www.wsbctopeka.org
