



Prelude

Faith of Our Fathers

Mansfield

Introit

This Is God's Country

Folts

Call to Worship

***Hymn #561**

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

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 mountainside
Let freedom ring.
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.
3. Let music swell the breeze,
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.
4. 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.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we turn away from our neighbors and desert our friends. We run in fear when we should be loyal. Have mercy on us, weak and willful people. Lead us once more to table, and unite us to Christ, who is bread of life, to whom be praise forever.

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the Good News.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Congregational Response**

Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Offertory on Land of Rest

Smith

***Hymn #592**

The Doxology

***Prayer of Commitment 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Choral Response**

Scripture Reading

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

The Parables of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

"And he said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?'" (Mark 4:30)

Anthem

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Forrest

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn**

From Sea to Shining Sea

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.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

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!

***Postlude**

All Hail the Power

Birchwood

*Please stand if able.

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Loving God • Investing in People • Living Generously