

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

July 6, 2014

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,
Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Maria, Pani Anna Marie and Andrea..

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$511.00; Candles, \$18.00; Pentecost, \$5.00, Holyday, \$82.00, for a total of \$616.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1809.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5750 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

+++ We invite all pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.

+++ Work is about to begin on the exterior of our building with the soffit being replaced completely so that new gutters and down spouts may be installed. Plans are being made to have the dome refurbished and reinstalled on the roof.



In Times Of Impatience

Do not grow lazy, but imitate those who through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises
Hebrews 6: 12.

But not only that – we even boast of our afflictions! We know that affliction makes for endurance, and endurance for tested virtue, and tested virtue for hope. And this hope will not leave us disappointed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us Romans 5: 3 – 5.

Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lesson of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures. May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus Romans 15: 4, 5.

Therefore, since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead
Hebrews 12: 1.

Realize that when your faith is tested this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing James 1: 3, 4.

Do not, then, surrender your confidence; it will have a great reward. You need patience to do God's will and receive what he has promised. For just a brief moment, and he who is to come will come; he will not delay Hebrews 10: 35 – 37.

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry Psalms 40: 2.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad. With his arm the Lord has won victory. By His death, the Lord has conquered death. He has become the first-born of the dead, He has delivered us from the depths of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world Troparion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Today, You arose from the grave, O merciful Lord. You rescued us from the gates of death. Today, Adam sings in exultation and Eve rejoices. With them, the prophets and patriarchs ever praise the might of Your divine power Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Sing praise to God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Three.

O Christ our Saviour, by Your Cross the might of death has vanished; the deceit of the devil has been broken; the human race saved by faith. Therefore we offer You unceasing praise Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

I glorify the power of the Father; I extol the power of the Son; I sing a hymn to the power of the Holy Spirit, One Divinity, indivisible, uncreated, equal in essence and reigning forever Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

Although unworthy, we stand in Your temple, O Christ our God. We offer our evening hymns of praise; We proclaim loudly: "O Christ our God, Lover of mankind, You have enlightened mankind by Your resurrection; deliver Your people, save them from the hands of Your enemies" Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

By the good pleasure of the Father, by the work of the Holy Spirit, as a Virgin you conceived the Son of God. He was born of the Father before all ages. In you, He became man for us. You gave Him birth without a father; You nourished Him as a child. Never cease to intercede with Him that He save our souls from affliction Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

Miriam

The First Prophetess

A little girl kept watch among the bulrushes. Pharaoh had just ordered all infant Hebrew boys to be killed, and the girl's mother, having a newborn son, made a basket of papyrus for the baby and hid it where Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe. Now the baby's sister, whose name was Miriam, was left behind to see what would happen to him as he floated in the water.

Miriam was only about seven years old, yet she behaved with stateswoman's poise. She was not afraid of Pharaoh or his court. Without revealing her own secrets she talked Pharaoh's daughter, who was enchanted with the foundling, into taking him into the palace to be reared, and even into unwittingly hiring their mother as his nurse! Thanks to Miriam, the child named Moses not only escaped death but found the finest home and best nurse in all Egypt.

There were three children in that family: Miriam, Moses and their elder brother Aaron. These three God chose to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and into the wonderful service of the Lord. When they were grown to maturity, the Lord chose Moses as leader of Israel and ambassador of God's words to the people. Aaron God chose to be the first of His priests. And Miriam God chose as the first of the prophetesses to be a witness of His

glorious grace working in imperfect man, witnessing God can use all of us for His glory and the salvation of souls. Not one created soul is excepted!

In that tumultuous hour when the Red Sea parted for the Israelites fleeing Pharaoh's pursuing chariots, Miriam watched at the head of the Hebrew women. Walls of water stood on either side but Miriam only thought of God. A tambourine in her hand, she danced across the dry sea bed. And when, safely across, the people of Israel saw Pharaoh's men and chariots utterly destroyed in the returning sea, Miriam sang a hymn we find today in Scripture and which echoes in the Resurrection liturgy: "Sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously. The horse and rider has He thrown into the sea" Exodus 15: 21!

But great and joyful as Miriam's soul was, she was prey, as are we all, to human fault. As months passed and her younger brother Moses led Israel through the wilderness, jealousy stirred in her heart and soul. Being a woman, Miriam did not get immediately to the point of her complaint against Moses. She pretended to be indignant with him over his marriage, in his youth. Moses had married a pagan woman instead of a daughter of Israel, and his wife did not stay with him during the hard years but came to him again only when he had emerged as the triumphant leader of his people. It was not really Moses' marriage that provoked and irritated Miriam, but a thorn of spiritual pride which continually poked at her and

irritated the equilibrium of her soul. Finally she and Aaron both spoke out their jealousy, "Does the Lord speak only through Moses? Does He not speak through us also" Numbers 12: 23? They wanted to appropriate some of the renown which they perceived Moses was receiving in his God-appointed position.

Now, says Scripture, Moses was the meekest man on earth. He would never defend his rights against his older brother and sister. But the Lord heard Miriam as well, and the Lord was not meek in responding and correcting her. Otherwise she may have destroyed the entire exodus with her complaining and undermining. He summoned Moses, Aaron and Miriam to the Meeting Tent, and met them in a column of cloud at its entrance. Calling Aaron and Miriam forward, He proclaimed: "Now listen to the words of the Lord: to prophets I reveal myself in visions and speak in dreams. Not so with my servant Moses! All through my house he carries my trust. I speak to him face to face, plainly and not in riddles. He beholds the presence of the Lord. How did you dare speak against my servant Moses" Numbers 12: 6 - 8?

The cloud vanished. The Lord departed making certain He was understood. And there stood Miriam, her fine dark skin became snow-white with the disease called leprosy. Not so serious or lasting as true leprosy, this was more an eczema or psoriasis type, which by God's Law meant seven day's quarantine.

The people were aghast, Miriam trembled and frightened, and Aaron turned humbly to his younger brother and said, "My lord, please do not hold us guilty of this sin we so foolishly committed! Let her not be half-eaten to death with disease" Numbers 12: 11, 12.

Moses was moved compassionately in his heart and soul with the sight of Miriam his only sister and the prayerful plea of his only brother Aaron. He cried out in sincere intercessory prayer for God to heal Miriam, but the Lord answered: "Suppose her father had spit in her face to shame her for a sin, she would hide in shame for seven days. Let her then be quarantined seven days. Only then may she be brought back" Numbers 12: 14, 15.

Miriam was confined outside the camp for a week. The whole nation waited until she was brought back before going on with their journey to the Promised Land. She returned cleansed of skin disease, and of the disease of spiritual pride. Eventually she died in honor, a prophetess beloved by the people. Like Aaron and Moses, she did not reach the Promised Land because of this sin. While her anthem of praise to the Lord resounds through the centuries, her actions teach us a host of lessons. Miriam, along with her brother Aaron had to learn early in salvation history the eternal truth made known to us later by the wise King Solomon, "...pride goes before the fall..." Proverbs 16: 18, because through "...pride comes contention and disunity..." Proverbs 13: 10.

ORTHODOX LANGUAGE

Apocrypha A Greek word meaning "hidden or secret". It concerns some of the early literature of the primitive Church which was excluded from the inspired books of Scripture and do not belong to its Canon. Some of them were written much later but attributed to important early personages of the Church of apostolic times, even to some of the Apostles, thus bearing a misleading title. They are now looked upon as interesting historical works, but certainly not composed under divine guidance.

Antiphon A short verse from the Scripture, especially the Psalms which is sung or recited in the Divine Liturgy or other church services. The word in its original Greek means "alternate utterance or chanting." By antiphonal singing, we mean any verse or hymn sung or recited by one group of singers or chanters in response to another part by alternative. The major feast days have their own specific antiphons which assist in understanding the message of its celebration.

Baptismal Name The individual first name given at time of baptism, commonly the name of a saint, who then becomes the patron saint and heavenly intercessor.

Chalice A large cup of silver or gold with a long stemmed base utilized for the Eucharist in imitation of the practice of our Lord at the Mystical Supper when such a vessel was a common drinking cup. It is a most sacred object and is handled only by the ordained clergy out of reverence and respect for the sacramental Mystery.

Christology That subject or field of dogmatic theology which examines the belief and understanding of the Church about Christ. It also concerns itself with the history and development of belief about Christ and how it affects our salvation.

Hierarchy The higher clergy or College of Bishops who are assigned to rule over spiritual matters of the Church. It examines various levels and responsibilities such as Archbishop, Metropolitan, Patriarch and the implications of these offices.

Miter The official crown-like headdress worn on particular occasions in liturgical celebrations by Hierarchs of the Church. Its original source was the Emperor's crown. When the Byzantine Empire fell in 1453, the crown was arrogated to the Ecumenical Patriarch as Ethnarch of the Orthodox faithful then under Muslim domination. In time, its use passed to ordinary diocesan bishops who before this celebrated bare-headed. In the Church of the Moscow Patriarchate, ordinary priests are awarded the right to wear a miter, but without the small cross on its top.

Christian Service

There is no greater part of Orthodox spiritual life than actively participating in dedicated service to the Lord. By this is meant a service that is not done merely out of a sense of duty or obligation, but one that is performed faithfully because of genuine joy and happiness in response to God's first shown love to us. The genuine believer recognizes that is precisely what separates us in our faith commitment and actual thinking from the rest of so-called Christians. When we worship, when we praise our God, when we gather together in Christian fellowship, when we receive worthily the sacramental Mysteries, it is because we spontaneously and lovingly respond to the love of the Blessed Trinity always manifested to us. It is not at all the thinking, "Must I do it? Should I do it? Am I morally obliged?" That kind of thinking is legalistic and desires to do only as much as we think God will be satisfied. It is not surrendering ourselves, our all to God. When we respond to our loving God in a legalistic way, we limit ourselves. When we reduce ourselves to a legalistic relationship with our Creator, we can just as easily reduce it further and ignore Him which is often done. What we speak of is simply responding in love and gladness of soul, not because a sense of duty binds us and bids us. Do husbands and wives respond to one another simply because duty insists upon it? Or is it because genuine love truly draws them and unites them? It is the child-like, trusting and loving response our Saviour said characterizes His followers. The natural response of the believer in Christ is to freely offer ourselves to Him wholly and completely in every possible way. It is the way our God offers Himself to us.

We can become either slaves to our daily Christian tasks and services, or we can become their master, thereby aligning ourselves and identifying with Christ our Saviour. We are slaves to the tasks that are expected of us as believers if we fulfill them half-heartedly with a spirit of compulsion. If we simply fulfill an "obligation" as it is called in Western language to worship, we simply become dischargers of the responsibility and gain no real spiritual benefit from it. It continues to leave us detached from the Source of Life instead of being life-giving and affirmative. We can overcome the adverse influence of our culture and its legalistic approach to religious profession and practice by learning to love the worship we are called to offer our God. We can even thus derive a complete sense of personal satisfaction and fulfillment in the glory we offer the Blessed Trinity if we personalize it and ardently participate in it. Our song and prayer of praise can become uniquely our own when it is united with that of other believers. It is simply a question of faith commitment brought to perfection, tempered with the love we have all received from our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ our Saviour by the grace of His Holy Spirit. If we truly wish to strive after a goal of accomplishment that has eternal dimension and will never fade, we ought to reorient ourselves and our thinking. Participating in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and all the other aspects of our blessed faith means we do it in the self same spirit they

are offered us by our God. Because He continually loves us, we lovingly respond to all the overtures for salvation He makes to us

We are pleased and delighted to indulge in the things we like pursuing such as recreation, hobbies, vacations and television viewing. These come easily because they demand so little from us, even though we invest them with a value far greater than they deserve. Our enthusiasm accelerates and we excite ourselves into enjoying them. Most times they demand little physical or mental effort. From the Orthodox perspective, there is the truth of stewardship of time, treasure and talent. So he knows he is accountable before the throne of Christ for how time, treasure and talent is spent or invested. Most spend time doing good things so they are wasted effort. What we truly need is a spirituality of investing these gifts with eternal values so they bring a worthwhile return to us. Far too many are profligate in their use of heavenly gifts. Most often nothing is done with them for the eternal benefit of the soul. What we desperately need in our commitment to the Saviour is to inspire in believers the distinct desire to do God's will and much as they wish to do their own will. For us who believe, our will and desire must be congruent with that of our Creator. That is the fundamental thought enunciated in the entire New Testament: to will what our God wills and to motivate ourselves to want to do what He want us to do. We must make His desire and will our own. That is simply how we deify and ennoble ourselves before Him.

"Your will be done" is a priority for believers. It is not a temporary thing, but an entire lifetime of subscribing to what our loving God desires of us: righteousness in all things. Our God continues to work miracles among us today. These take place in the minds and wills of those people who completely surrender to Him. The difficult matters He makes easier, and transforms the bitter into acceptable and life enhancing.

Orthodox Christians are not off-duty believers. Everything we do has eternal repercussions. In the strict sense of the word there are no seasonal or part-time practitioners of faith, working for and worshipping only when it pleases us, or when worship has its source simply in us, or when it is convenient in our life schedule. Those who so live are a contradiction to the genuine Christian way of life.

We are urged by St. Paul to do everything in our lives for the greater glory of God. "And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father." Regardless of what we do,, "whether eating or drinking, or anything else, we do all of the glory of God."

Did You Know That ...

...our heavenly Father will never place us in a position where we cannot succeed?

...if you want to win, but think you cannot, it is certain you will lose?

...a leader is not someone who leads until he has first followed?

...a determined soul will do more with a monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the sophisticated tools in a machine shop?

...the loss of religious fervor is due to soul erosion?

...we do not get old because we have accumulated a certain number of years, but because we have deserted our Orthodox Christian ideals?

...worry, doubt, fear and despair are the enemies which slowly bring us down to the ground and turn us to dust long before we die?

...the only thing we can be certain of in this life, is that outside of God's love for us, nothing is certain?

...he who has the most trouble usually has been the busiest in making it?

...prayer is not a way to avoid responsibility, it is not a short cut to success without sincere effort?

...it is a great deal better to do the things you should than to spend the rest of your life wishing you had?

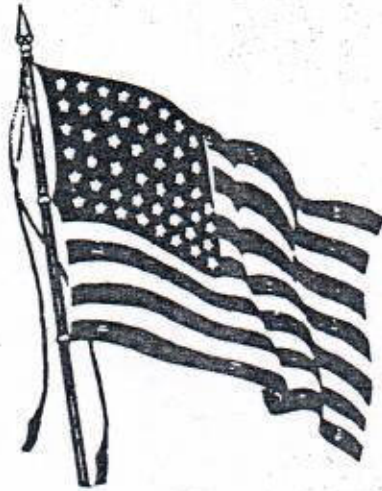
...if you make one person happy each day, in forty years, you will have made 14, 600 human beings aware of the presence of Christ within you?

...the problem with being a grouch is that you have to make a new set of friends every couple months?

...some people are bent from hard work; others get crooked trying to avoid it?

God Bless America





This book is dedicated to you, the people of all origins who have helped to make America great.

We honor especially the men and women of all branches of the military in the United States of America, who offer their lives for the cause of freedom.

May God continue to bless America and guide us in the cause of justice, liberty and peace.

The New Colossus

... Here at our sea-washed,
sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a
torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning,
and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her
beacon-hand
Glow world-wide
welcome; her mild eyes
command
The air-bridged harbor that
twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your
storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me
your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the
golden door!"

EMMA LAZARUS





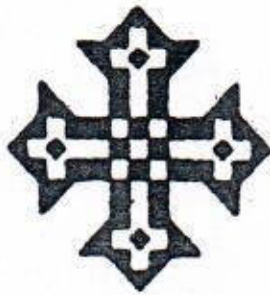
George Washington

Washington, the brave, the wise, the good,
Supreme in war, in council, and in peace.
Valiant without ambition, discreet without
fear,

Confident without presumption.
In disaster, calm; in success, moderate; in all,
himself.

The hero, the patriot, the Christian.
The father of nations, the friend of mankind,
Who, when he had won all, renounced all,
And sought in the bosom of his family and of
nature, retirement,
And in the hope of religion, immortality.

MOUNT VERNON INSCRIPTION



With malice toward none;
With charity for all;
With firmness in the right,
as God gives us to see the right,
Let us strive on to finish
the work we are in;
To bind up the nation's wounds;
To care for him who shall have
borne the battle,
And for his widow,
And his orphan —
To do all which may achieve and
cherish a just and lasting peace
among ourselves,
And with all nations.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
From his Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865

Father, We Thank Thee

Father, we thank Thee:

For peace within our favored land,
For plenty from Thy bounteous hand,
For means to give to those in need,
For grace to help in thought and deed,
For faith to walk, our hands in Thine,
For truth to know Thy law divine,
For strength to work with voice and pen,
For love to serve our fellow men,
For light the goal ahead to see,
For life to use alone for Thee,
Father, we thank Thee.

GRENVILLE KLEISER

*Long as thine Art shall love true love,
Long as thy Science truth shall know,
Long as thine Eagle harms no Dove,
Long as thy Law by law shall grow,
Long as thy God is God above,
Thy brother every man below,
So long, dear Land of all my love,
Thy name shall shine, thy fame shall glow!*

SIDNEY LANIER

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these things were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

Abraham Lincoln

Four Things

*Four things in any land must dwell,
If it endures and prospers well:
One is manhood true and good;
One is noble womanhood;
One is child life, clean and bright;
And one an altar kept alight.*

Memorial Day

These heroes are dead. They died for liberty—they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadow of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or storm, each in the windowless palace of rest. Earth may run red with other wars—they are at peace. In the midst of battles, in the roar of conflicts, they found the serenity of death.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

God Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand
through storm and night:
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Thou who art strong to save, be Thou her might!
For her our prayer shall be, our fathers' God, to Thee,
on Whom we wait:
Be her walls, holiness, her rulers, righteousness, in all
her homes be peace, God save the State!
Not for this land alone, but be God's mercies shown
from shore to shore;
And may the nations see that men should brothers be,
and form one family the wide world o'er.

SIEGFRIED A. MAHLMANN

WILLIAM E. HICKSON

*"Love America! But love her wisely.
Work hard to cure the faults, the
mistakes under which she labors.
Work to bring her closer to the
ideal that is the real America. Do
not leave her to be ruled by a few
who make it their business and
profit to rule. She is yours."*

An Historical Prayer

For Our Land

Almighty God,
who has given us this good land
for our heritage, we humbly
beseech Thee that we may always
prove ourselves a people mindful
of Thy favor and glad to do Thy
will. Bless our land with
honorable industry, sound
learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord and
confusion; from pride and
arrogance, and from every evil
way. Defend our liberties, and
fashion into one united people the
multitude brought hither out of
many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with the spirit of wisdom
those to whom in Thy name we
entrust the authority of
government, that there may be
justice and peace at home, and
that through obedience to Thy
law, we may show forth Thy
praise among the nations of the
earth.

In time of prosperity, fill our hearts
with thankfulness, and, in the day
of trouble, suffer not our Trust in
Thee to fail; all of which we ask
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

The things that will destroy us are:
politics without principle;
pleasure without conscience;
wealth without work;
knowledge without character;
business without morality;
science without humanity,
and worship without sacrifice.



God Bless America

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.

IRVING BERLIN

The Gettysburg Address

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent a new nation,
conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the
proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing
whether that nation, or any nation so
conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field
as a final resting place for those who here
gave their lives that that nation might live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we
should do this....

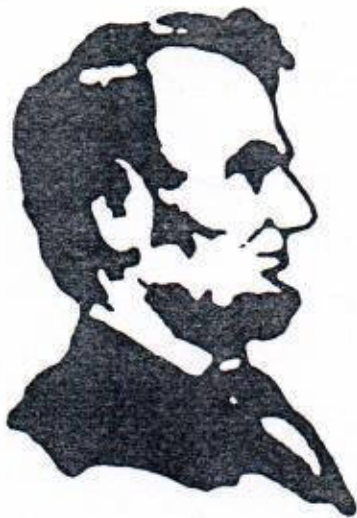
...The world will little note nor long remember
what we say here,
but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated
here to the unfinished work which they who
fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the
great task remaining before us—
that from these honored dead we take
increased devotion to that cause for which
they gave the last full measure of devotion;

that we here highly resolve that these
dead shall not have died in vain;
that this nation, under God, shall have a
new birth of freedom;
And that government of the people, by
the people, and for the people, shall
not perish from the earth."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
November 18, 1863



America the Beautiful

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!

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!



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!

KATHERINE LEE BATES

America

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!
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.
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.

SAMUEL F. SMITH

*Battle Hymn
of the
Republic*

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.
Glory! glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.
He is coming like the glory of the
morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor
to the brave;
So the world shall be his foot-stool, and
the soul of wrong his slave.
Our Lord is marching on.

The Four Freedoms

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms...

...freedom of speech and expression everywhere in the world.

...freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world.

...freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

...freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation...."



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

*The
Star-Spangled
Banner*

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?
On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream.
'Tis the star-spangled banner; oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY



God Bless America

America's Gospel

Our country hath a gospel of her own
To preach and practice before all the world—
The freedom and divinity of man,
The glorious claims of human brotherhood,
And the soul's fealty to none but God.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

Four Things

*things in any land must dwell,
endures and prospers well:
manhood true and good;
noble womanhood;
child life, clean and bright;
we an altar kept alight.*

Hymn

Father, send on Earth again
Peace and goodwill to men;
Yet, while the weary track of life
Leads Thy people through storm and strife,
Help us to walk therein.

Guide us through the perilous path;
Teach us love that tempers wrath;
Let the fountain of mercy flow
Alike for helpless friend and foe,
Children all of Thine.

God of grace, hear our call;
Bless our gifts, Giver of all;
The wounded heal, the captive restore,
And make us a nation evermore
Faithful to freedom and Thee.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

The Flag Goes By

Hats off!

Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of color beneath the sky:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!
Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.

Hats off!

The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by:
Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State;
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong;
Pride and glory and honor—all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.

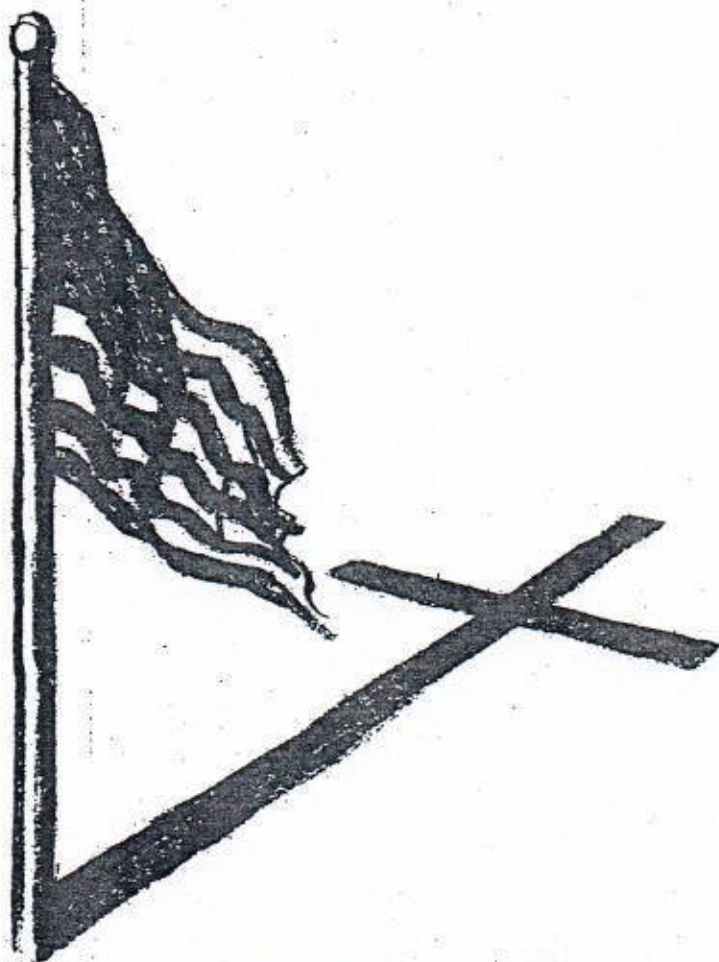
Hats off!

Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
And loyal hearts are beating high:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!

HENRY HOLCOMB BENNETT



**Remember the religious
heritage of the USA**



VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 3

1. O Christ our Savior,
By your cross the might of death has vanished;
The deceit of the devil has been broken;
The human race saved by faith.
Therefore we offer You unceasing praise.
2. O Lord our God,
By your glorious resurrection creation has
been enlightened,
Paradise has been opened.
The universe extols You and offers You
unceasing praise.
3. I glorify the power of the Father;
I extol the power of the Son;
I sing a hymn to the power of the Holy Spirit,
One Divinity, indivisible, uncreated,
Equal in essence and reigning forever.
4. We bow in worship to your cross, O Christ;
We praise and glorify your resurrection.
Through your wounds we were all made well.
5. We sing a hymn to the Savior :
He was crucified for us, He rose on the third
day,
He bestowed great mercy upon us.
6. Christ descended to the Abyss.
In these words he announced the good tidings :
“ Have confidence now, for I have conquered.
I am the resurrection :

I will set you free by breaking the gates of
Death."

7. Although unworthy, we stand in your temple,
O Christ our God.
We offer our evening hymns of praise;
We proclaim loudly :
" O Christ our God, lover of mankind,
You have enlightened mankind by your
resurrection :
Deliver your people,
Save them from the hands of your enemies. "
8. Glory be to the Father ✙, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Amen.

O Lady most honorable,
How can we not stand in wonder :
You gave birth to the Incarnate God;
He was born of the Father before all ages.
You gave him birth and remained a virgin.
He is perfect God and man,
The two natures are joined intact,
Neither losing any of its properties.
Therefore, O Virgin Mother,
intercede with him to save us.
We believe and confess you are the Mother of
God.

At the Apostichon

1. The sun was darkened at your passion,
O Christ;

The light of your resurrection enlightened
creation;

It overwhelmed it with joy

Receive an evening hymn of praise from us :

You alone love mankind.

2. Your life-giving resurrection, O Lord,
Has given light to the universe.
It has renewed our corrupt nature.
You delivered us from Adam's curse.
We cry out : " O Lord Almighty, glory be
to You! "
3. As God, You are without change,
Yet You suffered in the changing flesh.
The earth could not bear to see You on the
Cross;
It trembled in fear and sighed in praise of
your long-suffering.
You descended to the Abyss; you rose on the
third day.
You granted life and great mercy to the world.
4. You accepted death to save our race from
death, O Christ our God!
On the third day You rose from the dead.
You raised with You those who recognized
You as the true God.
You enlightened the world.
O Lord, glory be to You!
5. Glory be to the Father ✚, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
forever. Amen.

By the good pleasure of the Father,
By the work of the Holy Spirit,
As a Virgin you conceived the Son of God.
He was born of the Father before all ages.
In you, He became man for us.
You gave Him birth without a father;
You nourished Him as a child.
Never cease to intercede with Him
That He save our souls from affliction.

PANKRATIOS: A DISCIPLE OF THE APOSTLES

Saint Pankratios was one of the first martyrs of the early Church. We know that when our Lord walked this earth, word spread far and wide concerning His teachings and miraculous works. The parents of St. Pankratios are numbered among the many who sought out Christ and had their lives changed forever by their encounter with Him. They had travelled from Antioch to Jerusalem to see Jesus, and upon their return home, they passed on their new-found faith to their young son.

After Christ's crucifixion and Resurrection, Pankratios and his family are said to have been baptized by the Apostle Peter. Pankratios also knew St. Paul and several of the other Apostles. In fact, it was Peter and Paul who installed this zealous saint as the first bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Sicily was a predominantly pagan area when Bishop Pankratios arrived there. In a short time, however, he was able to win the entire town for Christ! Pagan temples were replaced by churches, and scores of faithful were instructed in the faith and baptized. When the pagan general Aquillinus heard that Taormina had become a Christian city, he embarked upon a campaign to destroy the entire town. Through the prayers of the fearless hierarch and his faithful, darkness engulfed Taormina when the invaders approached. Great confusion arose, and many of the soldiers accidentally stabbed a large number of their own ranks in the process! The city was saved!

A short time later, Pankratios was to give up his life for the Lord that he loved so much. He met his untimely end by being stoned at the hands of his pagan enemies. The relics of this holy man were preserved in Rome.

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