ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620
www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

November 8, 2026 ✢ 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory — the marriage feast of the Lamb.

✢ GATHERING ✢

Prelude
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome
Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to those worshipping by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. This is God's table. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in this meal are invited to participate. Holy Communion is distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Confession & Forgiveness

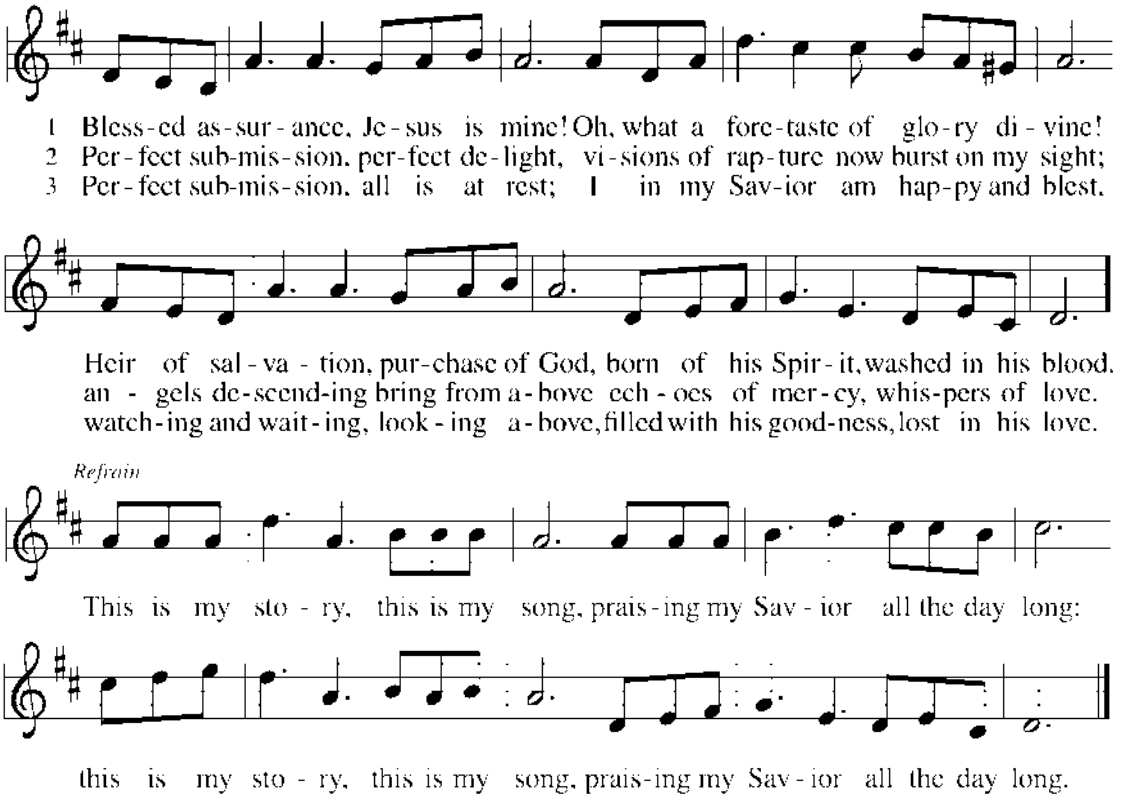
In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

If we claim to have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Today we are asked to stay awake
because we know not the hour when Jesus will come.
(A moment of silence is kept for reflection and confession.)
Holy God,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not always faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Bridegroom, opens the door to us.
Through ✢ Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

Gathering Song ***Blessed Assurance*** #638



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Music: ASSURANCE Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908
Public Domain

Veterans Day Litany & Video

Loving God, the framers of our Declaration of Independence
claimed that you have endowed us with inalienable rights
to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
Yet there are those who would take these from us.



Today we remember all those
who have served in our country's armed forces
to preserve the freedoms you have granted us,
to make it impossible for those who would
take away our freedoms from prevailing.

For the men and women who serve in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Space Force,
we ask your blessing.

For the family members who have also made great sacrifices in order to make it possible for their service members to be on watch at home or around the world or to go into harm's way,
we ask your blessing.

For the families who grieve the death of a loved one who went in harm's way, never to return,
we ask your blessing.



Jesus tells us that no one has greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
For all those veterans who have been willing to lay down their lives for us,
we ask your blessing.

For the veterans of past wars who bear scars in their bodies and spirits,
we ask your blessing.

For veterans who came home but couldn't "fit in" with their families or communities anymore,
we ask your blessing.

Keep all our veterans in your care today.
Grant them the peace that they sought to preserve for others.
As we honor our veterans, we also pray for peace.
Teach all your people the ways of peace
that those who have sacrificed so much for peace and freedom will not have done so in vain.

We pray all these things in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Apostolic Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise ***My America*** Choir & SS Choir

Purple Mountain majesties, amber waves of grain.
This is my America, to thee we sing.
Land of the free from sea to shining sea.
My America, let freedom ring.
My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride.
From ev'ry mountain side, let freedom ring.
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.
My America!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray… *(A brief silence is kept.)*
O God of justice and love,
you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✢ WORD ✢

First Reading **Amos 5:18-24**

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

A reading from Amos.

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

[21]I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
[22]Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
[23]Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
[24]But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70

Let us read the Psalm 70 responsively.

[1]Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
[2]**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

[3]Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
[4]**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever,
"Great is the LORD!"

[5]But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

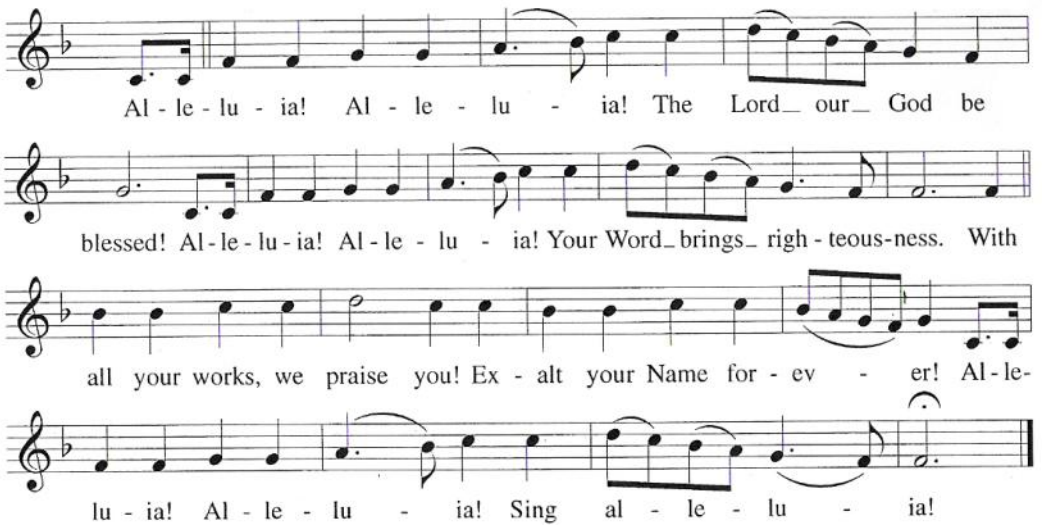
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A reading from First Thessalonians.

[13]We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,

through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15]For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16]For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse *Family of God*



Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The Holy Gospel according St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

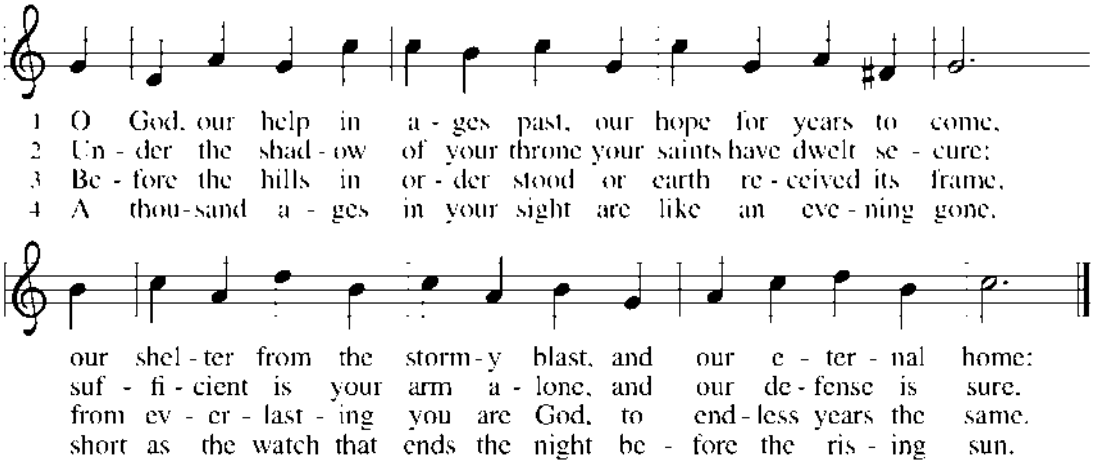
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4]but the wise took flasks of oil

with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. [11]Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time
Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** #632



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: William Croft, 1678-1727
Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

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 into hell.
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 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.

Prayers of the People

P United with the great cloud of witnesses,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence is kept.

A You illumine the church with the hope of your new day.
Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom,
that we might awaken
to your transforming love at work all around us.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms
so that all life might thrive.
Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance;
make us careful stewards of our common home.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations.
Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities

and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict.
Uphold veterans and those who care for them.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken.
Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis,
receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options.
We pray especially for...
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A You give rest to weary hearts and bodies.
As the days grow shorter in the north,
help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days,
honoring the need for quiet and stillness.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A You welcome those who have come before us in faith
into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace
and guide us into the promise of everlasting life.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

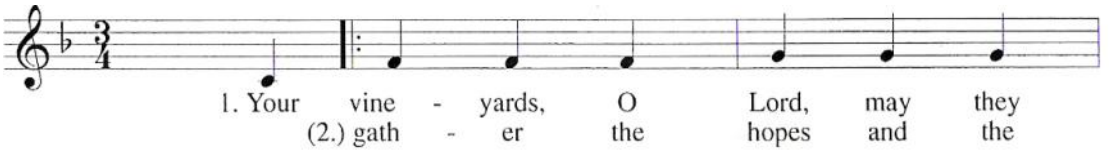
P Into your steadfast love, faithful God,
we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

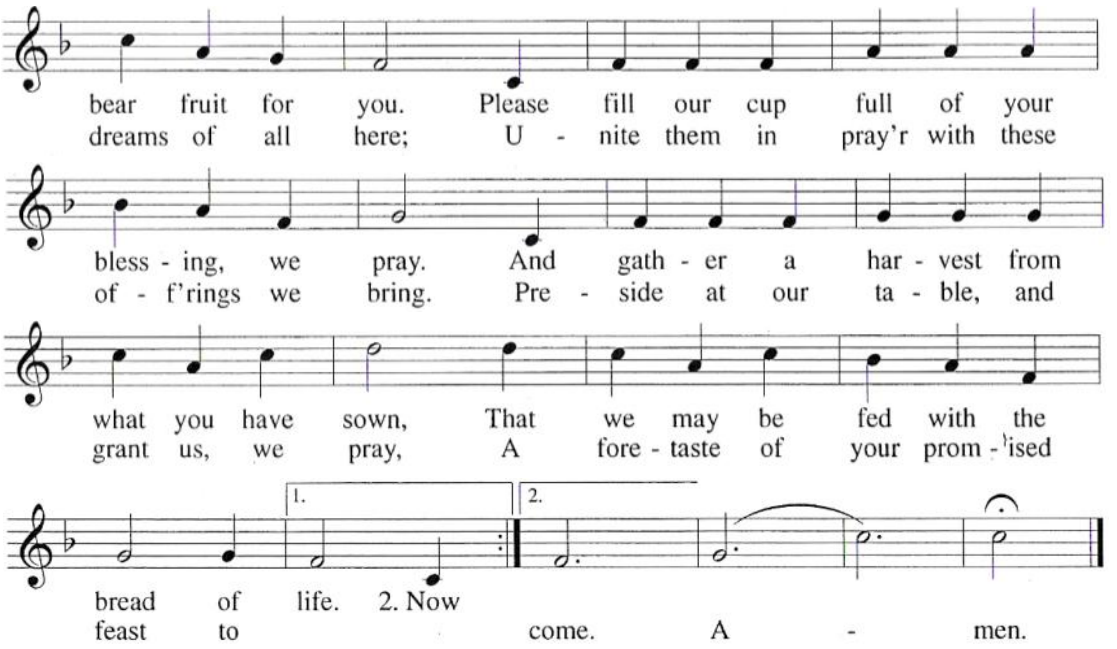
Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✢ OFFERING ✢

Offering Response *Family of God*





✢ MEAL ✢

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

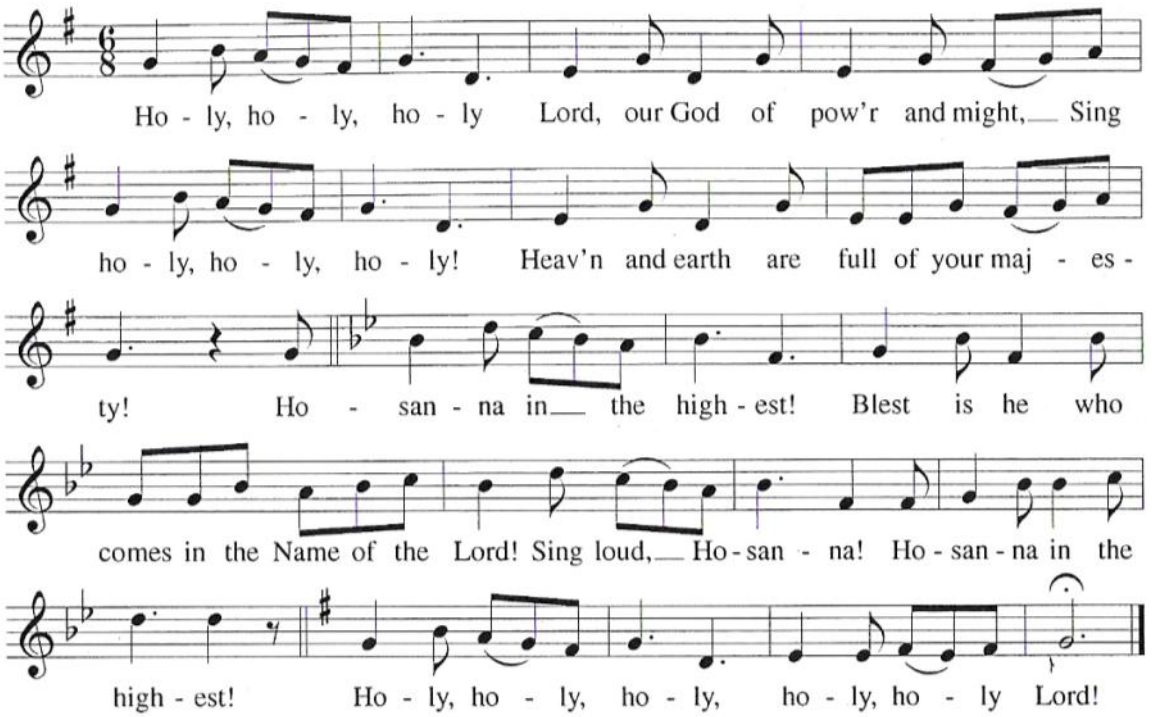
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

God of time and eternity, you set out the glory of your heavens
and show us reflections of that glory
in the tiniest details of the atoms of life.
When we find a thousand ways
to pervert and turn away from your grace,
you transform our rejection into your providence.

You dwelt among your people
in the cloud and pillar of fire, in the tabernacle and temple;
and finally you dwelt among us in your Son Jesus.
In His death you defeat death,
and in His resurrection you offer us life with you forever,
where we shall dwell with you,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of our unending praise.

Sanctus ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** *Family of God*



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

God of deliverance, in the cross of Jesus
we see what it costs you to dwell among us,
and in this broken bread and poured wine
we see your costly love among us today.

Send down your Holy Spirit,
that your people may be sanctified by your grace,
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with His disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again He gave you thanks, and gave it to His disciples, saying,
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

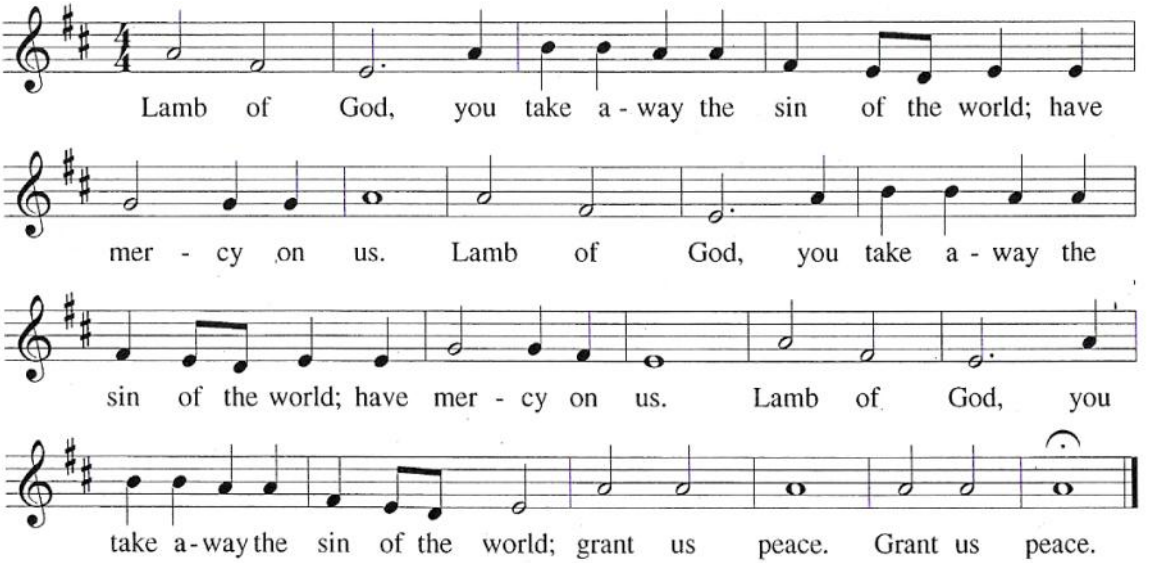
God of everlasting fidelity,
you have promised us that in marriage
we may glimpse the relationship of your Son and your church.
Renew the love and ministry of those who are married
that they may witness to your bond with us,
until the day comes when the new Jerusalem descends
as a bride prepared for her husband
and all creation meets its fulfillment
in the marriage of heaven and earth,
where every tear is dried and all the oppressed are vindicated,
all prisons are opened, and the fear of death is no more,
and we see you face to face and dwell in your presence,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...
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.

Agnus Dei ***Lamb of God*** *Family of God*

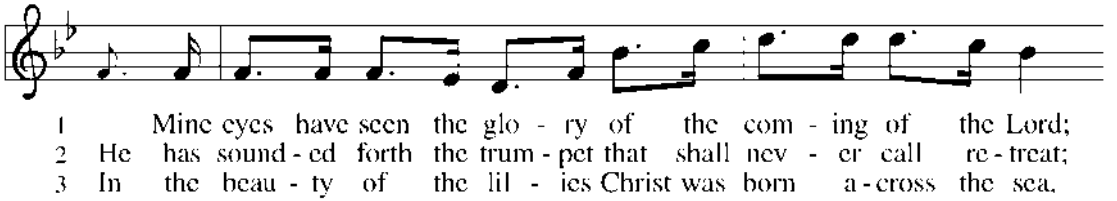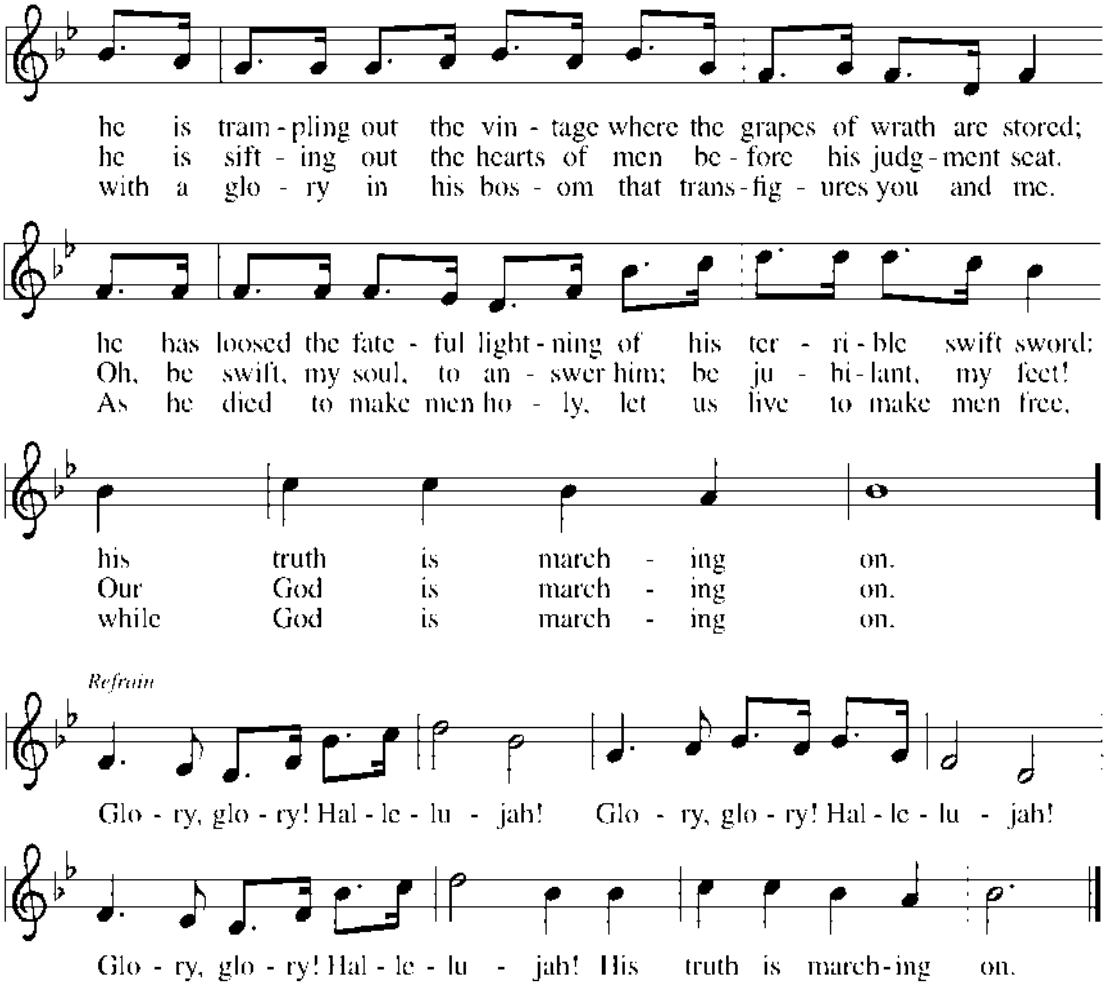


Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The Body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

Distribution Hymn ***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*** #890

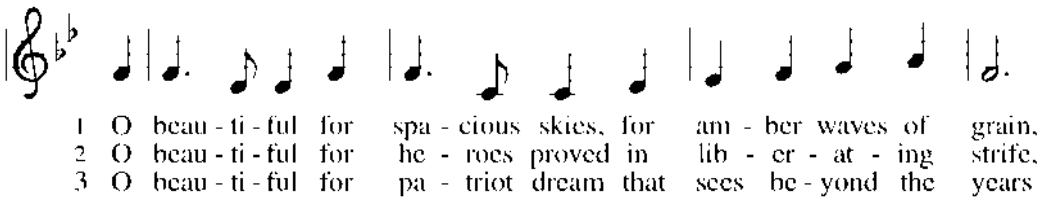




Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910 ↑
Music: North America, 19th cent.
Public Domain

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

Distribution Hymn *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* #888



Hymn continues on the next page.

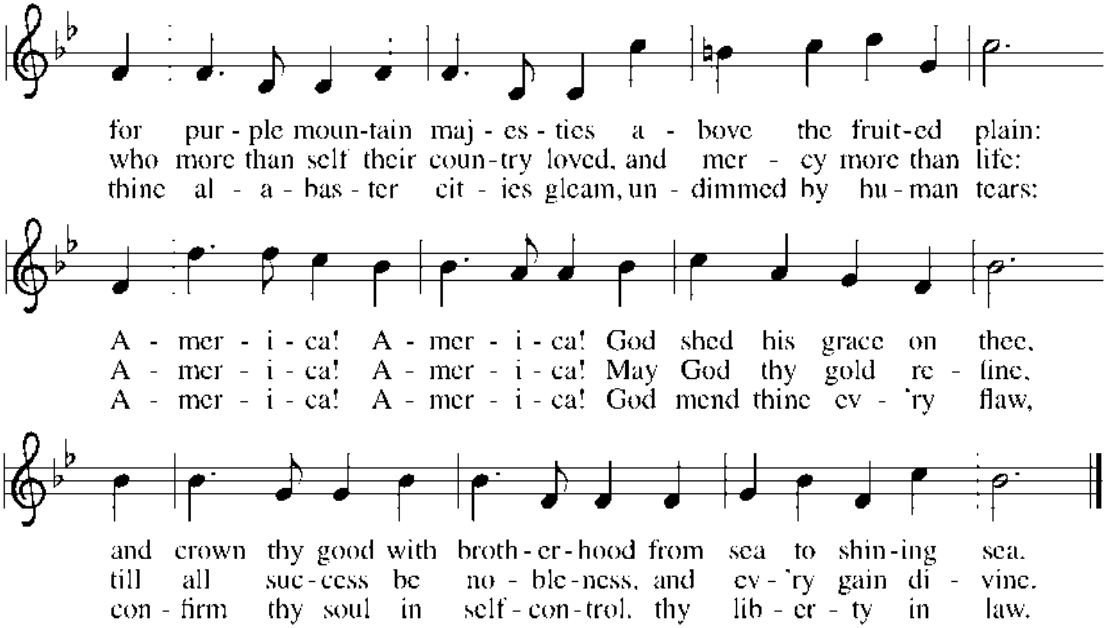


Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray… *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.
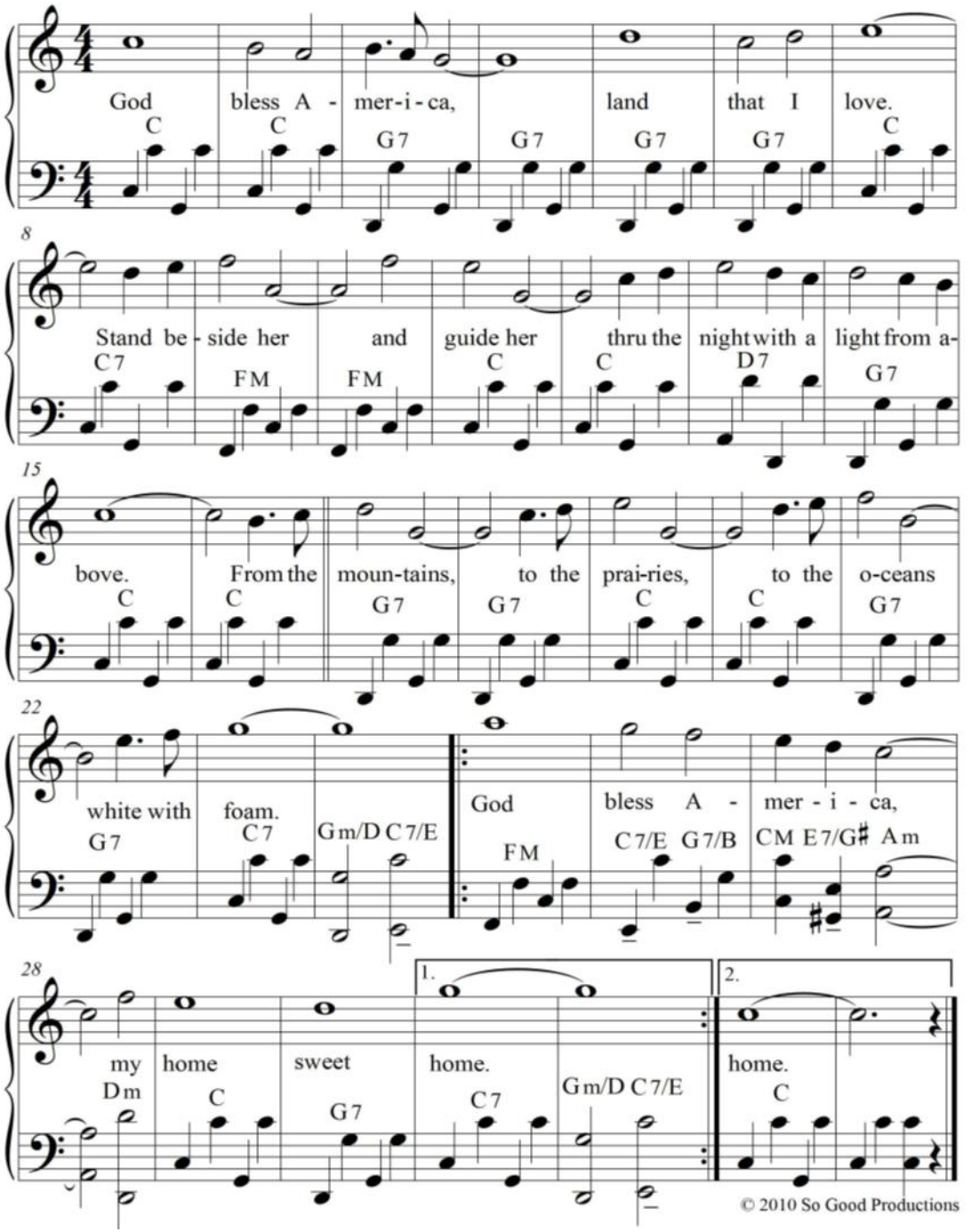
✢ SENDING ✢

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

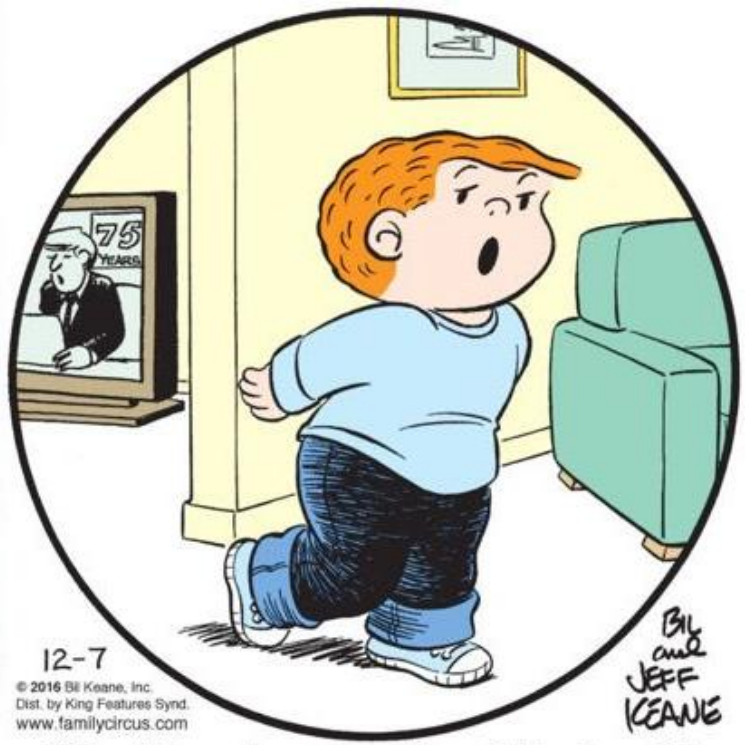
Sending Song ***God Bless America***



Words & Music: Irving Berlin 1888-1989 © Irving Berlin 1938
Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711706

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

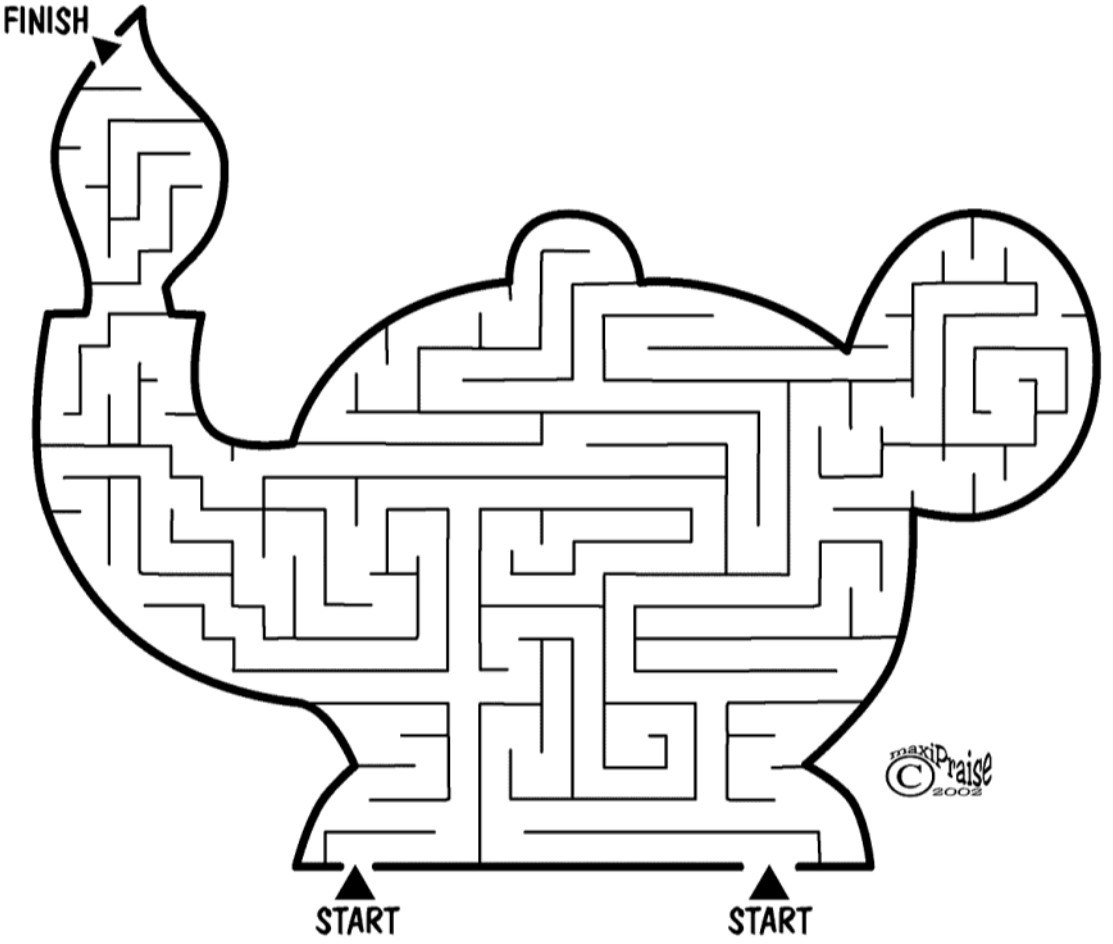


"Daddy, who was Pearl Harbor?"

All music & liturgies are from Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB159191. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Confession & opening litany reprinted with permission from Creative Communications for the Parish, CWR program.

The Ten Maidens

Just like the Ten Maidens who had a choice to take extra oil and be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, you have a choice of which path to take. One will lead you to the light. The other path will lead to darkness.





Veteran's Day Word Search

Air Force
Allies
American
Army
Battle
Bivouac
Brave
Character
Coast Guard
Combat
Commemoration
Democracy
Duty
Enlisted
Faith
Flag
Freedom
God Bless America
Gratitude
Hero
History
Holiday
Honor
Infantry
Korea
Love
Marines
Medal
Men
MIA
Military
National Guard
Navy
Officers
Patriot
Peace
POW
Pride
Respect
Sacrifice





G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	D	I	R	P	E	A	C	E	T
A	O	D	U	T	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	E	R	O	E	V	R
L	O	D	E	B	E	E	C	R	O	F	R	I	A	N	T	A	E
F	D	E	B	T	I	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	T	H	U	R	A
R	E	M	O	L	P	V	O	L	A	R	T	E	M	O	L	B	T
E	T	O	P	S	E	P	O	W	E	G	O	T	I	N	A	V	Y
E	S	C	E	V	E	S	T	U	U	M	F	A	A	O	S	M	R
D	I	R	I	I	W	W	S	A	A	F	F	T	I	R	S	K	O
O	L	A	S	E	N	I	R	A	M	C	I	S	T	A	E	O	T
M	N	C	S	T	W	D	O	S	M	O	C	D	I	A	I	R	C
K	E	Y	K	N	O	T	M	N	N	E	E	E	V	O	L	E	I
S	M	D	N	A	M	B	I	A	Y	T	R	T	R	O	L	A	V
P	A	R	A	M	E	D	L	R	A	W	S	I	F	T	A	S	H
O	A	K	H	L	N	G	I	E	R	W	I	N	C	U	P	E	Z
O	R	T	T	U	U	R	T	T	P	I	B	U	F	A	I	T	H
R	U	T	R	A	C	E	A	E	S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	U
T	A	P	R	I	P	A	R	V	A	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N
B	U	D	D	Y	O	T	Y	K	I	N	F	A	N	T	R	Y	I
H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S	O	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	M	F
R	E	C	O	M	M	E	M	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	E	R	O
R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C	O	M	B	A	T	N	E	A	R
E	F	I	S	P	A	C	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	U	M

Salute
Service
Soldiers
Space Force
Strength
Thanks
Treaty
Troops
Uniform
United States
Valor
Veterans
Victory
Viet Nam
War
Women
WWI
WWII

