

2026 Memorial Day Prayer Service

Call to Worship

- P “O say can you see?” Our country’s national anthem begins with those words. What do you see?
- C **We see the blessings of freedom to live and work in peace, to worship our God and Savior. We see and honor the countless members of the armed forces and the many who gave their lives to preserve our nation and our freedom.**
- P “O say can you see?” What do you see?
- C **We see God working in the lives of people who labor in many callings, caring for their families, protecting and governing us.**
- P “O say can you see?” What do you see?
- C **We see the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose from death to win forgiveness and eternal life. We see the work that lies before us as witnesses to his redeeming love. By faith we see the great day when we will be raised from death to live forever in his presence.**

Opening Hymn (National Anthem)

*O 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, thro’ 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 through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand,
Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation;
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: “In God is our trust”
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

Responsive Reading and Reflection (Acts 4:13-20)

- P When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



C But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

P So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

C “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.

P But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

C Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

P But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!

C As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Memorial Day Prayers

P Our God and Savior, we give you thanks for the freedom we enjoy and for the men and women who were willing to die to preserve that freedom. Help us to honor their sacrifice by living as good citizens of our nation, by living in love and service toward others. Lord Jesus, we have seen your glory;

C Make us bold witnesses to your saving love.

P Our God and Savior, we give you praise and thanks for the freedom won for us on the cross and for your triumphant resurrection. Lord Jesus, we have seen your glory;

C Make us bold witnesses to your saving love.

P Our God and Savior, give us by your Spirit the courage to proclaim the good news of salvation in your name. Lord Jesus, we have seen your glory;

C Make us bold witnesses to your saving love. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer – *Our Father who art in heaven...*

Closing Hymn (to the tune of My Country ’Tis of Thee)

*God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night. When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave, do thou our country save by thy great might.*

*So shall our prayers arise to God above the skies; on him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry: God save the state!*

Benediction (unison)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.