



WORSHIP KIT

FROM SEA TO
Shining Sea



A SERVICE FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

FROM SEA TO *Shining Sea*

A SERVICE FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Table of Contents

About "From Sea To Shining Sea"	5
Order Of Service.....	6-9
Complete Script For Memorial Day	10-16
Complete Script For Independence Day.....	17-24
Complete Script For Labor Day	25-31
Complete Script for Veterans Day	32-40
Music Guide.....	41-48

By Mark Zimmermann. Image: Shutterstock. © 2021 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 1-800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

FROM SEA TO *Shining Sea*

A SERVICE FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

About “From Sea To Shining Sea”

From Sea To Shining Sea is a complete order of service for all or any of the national holidays of the summer and fall—Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. The blessings that we receive from God extend across borders, cultures and communities and call to mind that we are united as a people of God to spread the news of Christ Jesus to every land and every tongue. The kit includes the hymns “God Bless Our Native Land,” “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” and “America The Beautiful” (from which the title of the service is derived), along with readings, sermons, children’s sermons and prayers for all your national holiday needs. Kits are not returnable.

The CD includes a .pdf of the entire services, text of the entire services in .rtf (rich text format), a list of contemporary music song suggestions and PowerPoint documents of the services (with a copyright release) for use on screens.

FROM SEA TO *Shining Sea*

A SERVICE FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Order Of Service

Opening Litany.....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!

P From east to west, you have blessed us, Lord God Almighty.

C From fields ripe for harvest, from business and industry creating products to make our lives better, to the natural beauty of animals and plants, fish and fowl, lakes and streams, thank you for your many gifts to our nation in land and sea and sky.

P For the blessings that span our nation from sea to shining sea,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P For the rights we share as citizens in this land and especially for the freedom we have to worship and speak of our faith in you,

C Lord God, we praise and glorify you!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

P From north to south, you have gathered people to live united in these states,

C We thank you for our government leaders and for all those who guard our cities and keep us safe.

P We pray for our armed forces at home and across the sea, for those who protect our nation and keep our country strong.

C We thank you for their sacrifice and for all those who work tirelessly to preserve us as a people.

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 ev'ry gain divine!

Confession And Absolution

Psalm ResponsoryPsalm 33

P By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,

C and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

P He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;

C he puts the deeps in storehouses.

P Let all the earth fear the Lord;

C let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

P For he spoke, and it came to be;

C he commanded, and it stood firm.

P The counsel of the Lord stands forever,

C the plans of his heart to all generations.

P Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

C the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:6-10

Let the waters under the heavens be gathered and let the dry land appear.

Epistle ReadingRomans 13:1-4a

For there is no authority except from God.

Gospel ReadingMark 4:35-41

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Children's Sermon

HymnGod Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land; firm may it 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!

FROM SEA TO *Shining Sea*

A SERVICE FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Complete Script For Memorial Day

- The service opens with an **Opening Litany** read responsively by the pastor and the congregation, interspersed with verses of the hymn **America the Beautiful**, sung by the congregation to the tune Materna CMD:

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!

P From east to west, you have blessed us, Lord God Almighty.

C From fields ripe for harvest, from business and industry creating products to make our lives better, to the natural beauty of animals and plants, fish and fowl, lakes and streams, thank you for your many gifts to our nation in land and sea and sky.

P For the blessings that span our nation from sea to shining sea,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P For the rights we share as citizens in this land and especially for the freedom we have to worship and speak of our faith in you,

C Lord God, we praise and glorify you!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

P From north to south, you have gathered people to live united in these states,

C We thank you for our government leaders and for all those who guard our cities and keep us safe.

- P** We pray for our armed forces at home and across the sea, for those who protect our nation and keep our country strong.
- C** **We thank you for their sacrifice and for all those who work tirelessly to preserve us as a people.**

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 ev'ry gain divine!

- The service continues with the **Confession and Absolution**, read by the pastor and responded to by the congregation:

P Jesus, you once said that those who sin should have a millstone fastened around their necks and should be drowned in the depths of the sea. Because of our sins, we are worthy of such treatment and deserve to be thrown overboard from the lifeboat of your protection. Forgive us for not accepting others of every race and nation and tribe. Have mercy on us for not always obeying the laws of the land as we should. Pardon us for not respecting all those in authority over us as you have commanded. These and all sins on our hearts we confess to you now.

(Observe a moment of silence for self-examination.)

P It is my privilege as a called and ordained servant of the Word to announce the grace of God unto all of you. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed your sins from you. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 And all God's people say,
C **Amen.**

- The service continues with the **Psalm Responsory** of Psalm 33, read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
C **and by the breath of his mouth all their host.**
P He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
C **he puts the deeps in storehouses.**
P Let all the earth fear the Lord;
C **let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!**
P For he spoke, and it came to be;
C **he commanded, and it stood firm.**
P The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
C **the plans of his heart to all generations.**
P Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
C **the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is read by the pastor:

☐ Lord of the nations, we remember today those who gave their lives defending our nation overseas and here at home. Comfort all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one today. Give strength to families and friends who are left behind as they strive to carry on. Thank you for the examples provided for us of bravery in the heat of battle, of loyalty to country and to you, and of courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. May their memories live on in the way we live out our lives, with conviction and stamina and faithfulness to our calling. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- The **First Lesson, Genesis 1:6-10**, is read by the pastor:

☐ And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

- The **Second Lesson, Romans 13:1-4a**, is read by the pastor:

☐ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good.

- The **Holy Gospel, Mark 4:35-41**, is read by the pastor:

☐ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

- The **Children’s Sermon** for Memorial Day is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

(Item needed: a toy boat)

☐ Ahoy there, mateys! Do you know what this is? *(Hold up toy boat.)* Yes, it is a boat. It reminds us of the story we just heard in our Gospel reading for today, when Jesus and his disciples were in a boat kind of like this one. A big storm came up and started rocking that boat to and fro. *(Move the boat up and down and side to side.)* But then Jesus came out and he said, “Peace! Be still!” And the storm stopped and the boat settled down again. *(Move the boat steadily in the space in front of you.)*

We have times in our lives when things get a little stormy, too, don’t they, boys and girls? *(Allow the children to respond.)* Maybe someone is making fun of you at school or you fall down on the playground or you forget to bring your lunch to school. Maybe someone you know has even died. Life can be bumpy sometimes. *(Move boat up and down and side to side.)*

But I want you to remember today that no matter how bumpy the ride of life gets, you will always be OK with Jesus by your side! He will keep you shipshape every day of your life! Listen to these words from Jesus, “Surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). We have nothing to fear because Jesus is here.

- The service continues with the hymn **God Bless Our Native Land**, sung by the congregation to the tune National Anthem 664 6664:

God bless our native land; firm may it 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 whom we wait. Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye, to thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

- The **Sermon** for Memorial Day is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Have you ever had an experience when you said even at that time, “I’m going to remember this forever”? When Jesus stilled the storm, that’s something that the disciples in the boat likely said to one another. That is something that those who stormed the beaches of Normandy or fought in Desert Storm and other wars have no doubt said.

That’s what we do this Memorial Day weekend: We set aside time to remember forever the sacrifices that were made by members of our military who died serving our nation

and fighting for our freedoms. We should never forget them and what they did for us so that we can live in this land of plenty.

It's a time for us to remember, too, the sacrifice our Savior Jesus made on the battlefield of Calvary, where he suffered and gave his life for us on the cross that we might be free of our sins and live in heaven forever.

But how do we remember these sacrifices in our lives from day to day? One way is to visit the graves of loved ones who have passed away or place flowers by a tombstone in a cemetery.

One way we remember the sacrifice our Savior made is to wear a cross around our necks or put a cross on the wall in the entryway to our home. Placing the cross in prominent places in our lives reminds us why we are here and how we should live to honor the memory of our Savior who died, yet is alive and coming back to take us home with him.

Another way to remember our loved ones who have gone before us is to think about what they would do in certain situations in which we find ourselves. "Johnny would have said, 'Hi' to that veteran in a wheelchair," we might say to ourselves, so we say hello. "Cindy would have donated money to that charity," we think, so we pull out our pocketbooks when someone from that charity comes calling.

The same is true in remembering our Savior. We remember him by speaking and acting as he would. Today in our Gospel reading, we read how Jesus was not startled by the storm on the sea, but how he simply got up and said, "Peace! Be still!" and the storm stopped. What can we learn from his actions here? What can we apply to our own lives? The message seems clear. When storms of any kind arise—bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, death, a health crisis, etc.—our first response should be like Jesus, when a storm arose in his life. We should ask for and seek peace. We should seek peace from God, who knows exactly what we are going through and can give us the faith to make it through whatever comes our way. Only Jesus can bring us the peace we need, the peace that passes all understanding. He who stilled the wind and the waves on the sea can still the storms raging within our lives, no matter how fierce they may be.

Notice how the disciples did not pray, but started panicking. They didn't remember what Jesus could do. And they had no faith, Jesus said. Faith is what drives out fear. Faith is what keeps us calm. Faith is what keeps our lives from crashing on the shores of uncertainty.

With Jesus in our boat in this life, so to speak, we know he will steer us in the right direction. We know that he will take care of us and not let us drown in sin and despair. We know he will love us and protect us forever. We are assured of a safe harbor in heaven because Jesus is at the helm.

Let the presence of Christ guide you through the sea of projects and schedules and problems and milestones that lie before you and let the memory of his power in that squall in Scripture help you to see that, though things may not always be smooth sailing for you, the journey will be worth it with Christ as your captain.

- The **Offering** is gathered.
- The service continues with these **Prayers** being offered by the pastor:

☐ O Stiller of Storms, thank you for keeping us safe from the various storms of this life. Give us hope, we pray, in the midst of storms we may be weathering now. Give added grace, we pray, to those we know who are hospitalized at this time (*especially ...*) and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one (*especially ...*).

O Stiller of Storms, guard our military forces in combat and those who stand in harm's way to preserve us as a nation. Bless the lives of veterans so that they might enjoy the freedoms that they helped to protect. Soothe the troubled waters of soldiers who have suffered injury of any kind and calm the hearts of those who have lost a friend or family member on the battlefield. Arm all who have been affected by the ravages of war with the message of your eternal victory over sin, death and the devil.

O Stiller of Storms, as we face doubts about beliefs and our souls are stirred up by questions and concerns about your place in our lives, give us an extra measure of faith in you and help us to hold fast to your promises of love and commitment to us and our future. Fill our minds with your words of blessing found in Scripture, speak to us again and again as you answer our prayers for your care. Renew us in our relationship with you and with one another through our worship life.

O Stiller of Storms, bring peace to places divided by war and bring harmony to families and friends at odds with one another. Unite your people as one in the Church as we strive to serve as peacemakers to the rest of the world.

O Stiller of Storms, be a beacon of hope to those who are unemployed and underemployed. Open doors of opportunity to them that they might find jobs that are fulfilling to them and provide the support they need to live from day to day.

O Stiller of Storms, grant wisdom, we pray, to our government leaders and all those in authority over us, that their decisions may bring us closer as a nation, advance our prospects and allow success for our endeavors.

All this we pray through Christ our Lord, whom you remembered in the grave and raised to life everlasting.

☐ **Amen.**