

JULY 4, 2026
INDEPENDENCE DAY



Free to love your neighbor as yourself.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observances.

Saturday	Jeremiah 29:4-14	Letter to the exiles
	Galatians 5:1a, 13-15	Christ gives freedom
	Psalms 124	A prayer for victory
	John 8:31-32	Truth will set you free

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:13-14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Independence Day:

Lord, we thank you for all those who have sacrificed so much that we may have freedom of speech and religion in our land. Above all, we thank you for the freedom to love you and all people with faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for this meal, for abundant seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with ample food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God set you free to love all people.



The “Four Key Faith Practices”—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson. For a brief description, go to: <https://milestonesministry.org/history-of-the-four-keys/>.

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HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY 

*O Beautiful for Spacious
Skies*

INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you were not free to make your own choices?
- In what ways does Jesus set you free?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Galatians 5:1a, 13-15.

Paul urges us to live as God’s servants and not use our freedom as an excuse for doing wrong. Unfortunately, there are still many people in the world today whose freedom is limited because of personal or social circumstances. In your devotions remember and pray the following litany:

- We pray for those who live in places where personal freedoms are restricted.
- We pray for those who are unable to freely practice their faith.
- We pray for those who lack freedom due to poverty.
- We pray for those who are in prison.
- We pray for those who are sick or otherwise debilitated.
- We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free.

Conclude the litany with a moment of silence reflecting on the power and importance of freedom in Christ.

Discuss: How can you use your freedom in Christ to serve those in need?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, grant all people the freedom you have given us through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Independence Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you use your freedom to show love for your neighbor?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain. Two days later its delegates adopted the *Declaration of Independence* that had been drafted by Thomas Jefferson. To this present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence. Find a copy of the *Declaration of Independence* and read it. Sing the national hymn *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* or read the words as a prayer. Take time to quietly reflect on the message of the hymn and the power and glory of God.



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