



## A PATRIOTIC DEVOTION

**Props:** American flag, Christian flag, copies of the Christian Pledge.

**Cast:** There are four speakers. All four stand at the front with speakers 1 and 2 in the center holding the American flag and the Christian flag.

**Speaker 1:** (*Holding the American flag*) The flag of the United States - the symbol of our country, the symbol of beliefs we hold. It makes a statement to the world that we are able to govern ourselves, that we can care for ourselves, that we wish to support our country or choose an alternative. The flag of the United States - the symbol of our INDEPENDENCE.

**Speaker 2:** (*Holding the Christian flag*) In direct opposition, the Christian flag stands for DEPENDENCE. We as Christians depend completely on Christ for our well-being, for our daily care and for our eternal salvation. Through acknowledging Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we willingly give ourselves completely to His care and His power.

**Speaker 3:** Let us begin in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We join in singing, "God of Our Fathers."

**All Sing:** "God of Our Fathers" LW 501

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:  
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past;  
In this free land by you our lot is cast;  
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;  
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence  
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Your true religion in our hearts increase;  
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace  
Until at least we meet before your face.

**Speaker 4:** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.* Psalm 33:12

**Speaker 3:** *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*  
Proverbs 14:34

**Speaker 4:** *When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.* Proverbs 29:2

**Speaker 3:** *If you fully obey the Lord your God, ...the Lord your God will set you high above all nations on earth.* Deuteronomy 28:1

**Speaker 1:** Please join me in the pledge to the American flag.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of American and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Speaker 4:** We join together in singing “God Bless Our Native Land.”

**All Sing:** “God Bless Our Native Land” TLH 577, LW 497

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!

**Speaker 2:** Please join me in prayer.

O God, we thank You for the saving faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and for the privilege of being a Christian in this free country.

Give us a deep and abiding faith, and grant us the grace to show in all our actions and in all our dealings with all people throughout the world that You

are the Ruler of our hearts and minds and that the joy of salvation is the dominating influence of our lives.

Keep us from becoming discouraged by the troubles and cares of this life, and make us trusting, cheerful and confident. At the same time keep us humble in the knowledge that salvation is from You and that eternal salvation is Your gift to us through Jesus Christ in whom we pray. Amen.

**Speaker 3:** *I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.*  
Psalm 145:1

**Speaker 4:** *Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.*  
Psalm 145:3

**Speaker 3:** *One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.* Psalm 145:4-5

**Speaker 4:** *The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.* Psalm 145:8-9

**Speaker 3:** *My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.* Psalm 145:21

**Speaker 2:** Please join me in the Christian pledge.

I pledge allegiance to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the faith for which it stands, one Savior eternal, with mercy and grace for all. So help me God.

**Speaker 1:** As Christian citizens, let us join our voices in a song of prayer and praise.

**All Sing:** "Before You, Lord, We Bow" *TLH 575, LW 500*

Before you, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise To you, our king!

The nation you have blest May well your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.  
For this bright day, For this fair land -  
Gifts of your hand - Our thanks we pay.

May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,  
Shine in your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise  
And join to raise A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship him alone  
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow'r he comes, Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, With joy to sing  
To heav'n's high king Salvation's song!

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