

Bringing it Home For Sunday, July 5, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



I bet you heard fireworks this weekend.

Even if you don't go to a fireworks show, or attend a party or parade, you can usually hear fireworks around the Fourth of July.

The fancy name for July Fourth is Independence Day. It celebrates the day that thirteen colonies in America declared they were no longer subjects of the King of England. They wound up having to fight a war, but they eventually won their freedom from the King.

But here's a secret:

We Christians celebrate our very own Independence Day every Sunday.

We declare that we aren't subjects of sin, or of the devil, or even of death itself. Even better, we don't have to fight a war to gain our independence. Jesus won it for us when he died and then rose from the dead.

We don't send up fireworks every Sunday. We celebrate in a different way. We come together, listen to the Bible, sing songs, and share Communion.

In today's Bible readings, we heard a letter from Saint Paul. He complained that even when he wanted to do the right thing, he got it wrong. That's sin. But Jesus rescued him!

And Jesus rescues us, too.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for setting me free from sin and death. Help me to celebrate your victory by sharing your wonderful love with the world. Amen.

Today's Bible Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!