

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

America, the Beautiful

With new verse 3

B \flat B \flat F \bar{C} F B \flat F 7 F F 9 F 7 B \flat B $^{\circ 7}$ F 7 C

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
3. O beau - ti - ful for men of faith Who found - ed this great land;

F B \flat F \bar{C} F $^{\circ}$ F \bar{C} C 9 C 7 G F C 7 F 7 A

For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
Pro - claimed for us "In God we trust," And held to God's strong hand.

F B \flat F 7 C B \flat D F 7 sus F 7 B \flat F F 7 C m G F 7 A B \flat E \flat B \flat

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee

B \flat 7 D E \flat B \flat N.C. F 7 B \flat

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness And ev - 'ry gain di - vine!
Till lives con - fess His righ - teous - ness From sea to shin - ing sea!

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MATERNA
C.M.D.

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TOPICS: Patriotic

LEAD-IN: *The Lord foils the plans of the nations...
But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever...
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalm 33:10-12, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Community

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. (Romans 12:10, NIV)

Each of us is part of a group of people--a community. In fact, we are members of several communities: family, church, city, nation, and more. We have received so much from these groups. We owe them a tremendous debt.

In their immaturity, our children are often unaware of such debts. They feel obligated only to their own desires. They think only of themselves.

It's easy for us to make the same mistake. We've inherited so many of the blessings we enjoy: roads, schools, a stable government; knowledge, moral values, our Christian faith. We didn't earn any of these. They were left to us by others.

What communities do you belong to? To whom do you owe a debt?

I thank God for my family.

I thank God for the wonderful friends with whom He has surrounded me.

I thank God for the Church.

I thank God for the United States of America. I praise Him for all the wonderful blessings He's poured out on us through this nation. I treasure the heritage I've been given, and I commit myself to keeping it strong under God for my children and their children's children.