

## Primary Documents in American History

### Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

[Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address](#) was delivered on March 4, 1865, during the final days of the Civil War and only a month before he was assassinated. In his second inaugural address, Lincoln discussed the war and slavery, and ends with these words of reconciliation:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

[Library of Congress Web Site](#) | [External Web Sites](#) | [Selected Bibliography](#)

### American Memory Historical Collections

#### [Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress](#)

Includes a copy of a [printed invitation](#) from Lincoln's second inauguration ball. [Search](#) Lincoln's papers to locate more documents related to his second inauguration.

#### ["I Do Solemnly Swear . . .": Presidential Inaugurations](#)

Contains a special presentation on [Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration](#), which includes manuscripts, prints and photographs. In addition, [Marvin Kranz](#), historical specialist, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, provides historical insights into Lincoln's second inauguration.

#### [A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation](#)

A transcript of Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address is also available in the [Congressional Globe](#) and the [Senate Journal](#) from March 4, 1865.

#### [An American Time Capsule: Three Centuries of Broadside and Other Printed Ephemera](#)

Contains a broadside of another copy of [Lincoln's second inaugural address](#). This collection also contains a copy of his second inaugural address as it appears on the north wall of the [Lincoln memorial](#).

### Exhibitions

#### [American Treasures of the Library of Congress - Lincoln's Second Inauguration](#)

An online exhibit on Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration containing a memo Lincoln wrote to his cabinet members and a poem printed for his inaugural parade.

### External Web Sites



[The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln](#), Abraham Lincoln Association

[Our Documents, President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address](#), National Archives and Records Administration

[Mr. Lincoln's White House](#), The Lincoln Institute

### Selected Bibliography

Tackach, James. *Lincoln's Moral Vision: The Second Inaugural Address*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2002. [\[Catalog Record\]](#)

White, Ronald C. *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002. [\[Catalog Record\]](#)

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[Lincoln taking the oath at his second inauguration, March 4, 1865.](#)

Harper's weekly, 1865.

[Prints & Photographs Division.](#)

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