

# American Rhetoric

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death  
Patrick Henry

Ain't I a Woman?  
Sojourner Truth

A House Divided  
Abraham Lincoln

The Gettysburg Address  
Abraham Lincoln

The Second Inaugural  
Abraham Lincoln

Cross of Gold  
William Jennings Bryan

The Man in the Arena  
Theodore Roosevelt

The Only Thing We Have to Fear  
Franklin Roosevelt

A Date Which Will Live in Infamy  
Franklin Roosevelt

Old Soldiers Never Die  
Douglas MacArthur

Inaugural Address  
John Kennedy

Ich Bin Ein Berliner  
John Kennedy

The Ballot or the Bullet  
Malcolm X

I Have a Dream  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

A Time for Choosing  
Ronald Reagan

Tear Down this Wall  
Ronald Reagan

## Lincoln's Second Inaugural

THE ALMIGHTY HAS HIS OWN PURPOSES. "WOE UNTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him?

Fondly do we hope — fervently do we pray — that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

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 lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

