

Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life

P: People of God, you are chosen and named as God’s beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. I ask you, therefore:

P: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

C: Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

C: Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

C: Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ’s name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Blessing:

P: The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory ELW #890

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

C: Thanks be to God.

Recessional



Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

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Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!

“If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to Become a member, contact any member, or the church office.”

Sunday, July 5th, 2026; 9:30 am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of all mercy,

C: we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of + Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit’s power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: This Is My Song ELW #887

Call to Worship Psalm 145:8-14

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12 Kelli Schunk

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Acclamation: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW #512

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**
(After the reading is announced: C: Glory to you, O Lord.)
(After the reading, P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.)

Children’s Message Pastor Josh Schunk

Sermon Pastor Josh Schunk

Hymn of the Day: *God’s Word Is Our* **ELW #790**

Nicene Creed:

Prayers of Intercession
Trusting in God’s steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation.
(A brief silence.)

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused.

P: Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,
C: Hear our prayer.
P: All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation’s praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially those we name before you now *(a brief silence)*. God of grace,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C: Amen

Offering

Offering Hymn: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* **ELW #888**

Offertory Prayer:
P: Let us pray.
C: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table
P: Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign. Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.
Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home. In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of the empire, you came in Jesus to share our lives. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Remembering, therefore, Christ’s execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ’s resurrection that buries death, Christ’s ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, or the *shalom* that you have first shown to us. Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Invitation to Communion
P: Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn: *Before You, Lord, We Bow* **ELW #893**

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer:
P: Let us pray.
C: We thank you, God, of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.