

## Offertory Prayer

L: God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
C: **you are the giver of all good things.**  
**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,**  
**and multiply your graciousness in us,**  
**that the world may be fed with your love,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## Holy Communion

+Words of Institution  
+Lord's Prayer  
+Distribution Hymn      *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*      ELW #502  
+Blessing

## Benediction

### Three-fold Amen

## Closing Hymn

*Servants Prayer*      Insert

**Sending:**      P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!  
                  C: **Thanks be to God!**

## 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 16, 2023; 9:30 am      Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

## Welcome/Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins,

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*      ELW #533 (vss. 1,3,5)

## Prayer of the Day (All)

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### First Lesson

Isaiah 55:10-13

Susan Kruse

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

### Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the

dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### Alleluia Verse

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

ELW #512

### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*(Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*(Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)*

### Children's Sermon

Deb Moritz

### Sermon

"Simplicity (so that...)"

Pastor Greg Johnson

### Hymn of the Day

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW# 611

### Prayers of the Church

#### Offering

*(The children's offering basket will be on the front steps of the church, so that they can in yet another way feel involved in Sunday worship)*



#### Offertory Hymn

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

ELW #679