



**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIXTH  
BACCALAUREATE SERVICE**

Friday, May 15, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Weaver Chapel

Wittenberg University

**Prelude**

“For the Beauty of the Earth” Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872  
“This is My Father’s World” Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930

**Processional**

**Welcome & Invocation**

Vicar Don Humphreys, Minister, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Springfield Ohio  
Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, President

**Call to Worship**

Vicar Don Humphreys, Minister, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Springfield Ohio

All who thirst, come to the water. Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us, and our Gracious and Holy God beckons and blesses us. Drink deeply of these living waters.

**Congregation: May we thirst for justice and God’s love!**

*Please stand.*

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*In Wittenberg’s historic Lutheran tradition, “Thanksgiving for Baptism” reminds us of the Holy Spirit’s active presence in our lives. As graduates celebrate the conclusion of their work at studies, while preparing for the next stages of life, we give thanks for the Holy Spirit’s work in and through them.*

P: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.  
Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.  
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.  
You are the fountain of resurrection.

**Congregation: We praise you, O God, for our water stories –**

We remember the waters of Jesus – baptized in the River Jordan, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob’s Well, washing the disciples’ feet.

P: You are the fountain of life:

**C: refresh us.**

P: You are the cleansing spring:

**C: heal us.**

P: You are the well from which we drink and never thirst again:

**C: fill us.**

**Congregation: We give thanks for the living water of God given to us.**

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Wash away the sin present in all of creation, and bring us to new life in you,

**AMEN**

*Congregation may be seated.*

**Gathering Hymn # 720**

“We are Called”

WE ARE CALLED

P: Let us pray. God of our ancestors, God of those yet unborn, we give you thanks for everything you have done for those preparing for graduation. Walk with us in life. Keep us from danger. Guide our feet as we run the race of life in faith. May we use our gifts to bring goodness and righteousness to this world. And may every good work you have begun in us be brought to fullness. In Jesus Christ we pray, **AMEN.**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Proverbs 2**

**Second Reading: James 4: 13-17**

**Third Reading: Matthew 5: 1-10, 13-16**

**Pastor Reflection**

*Please stand.*

**Blessing to the Class of 2026**

P: Eternal God, we thank you for our graduates and the life we have shared together in this community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others. Through Jesus Christ, **AMEN.**

**Hymn #732**

“Borning Cry”

WATERLIFE

*During the hymn, we invite graduates to come forward to receive an individual blessing. As each graduate approaches the Pastor, they will hear the words “May God bless you, as you have blessed others.”*

**Closing Prayer**

*Prior to the prayer, we prepare to pass our light on to others. Assistants will bring a lit candle to each row. Unlit candles are tipped to receive light. As your candle is lit, please pass your light on to the person next to you.*

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn #543**

“Go, My Children with My Blessings”

AR HYD Y NOS

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**Postlude**

“Cum Sancto”

Wolfgang A. Mozart, 1756-1791

***A warm welcome to all to Weaver Chapel this afternoon!***

Guests may be interested to know the story behind the streamers from the cross. They have been used for many years by the Weaver Chapel student community during the Easter season to symbolize the joy and hope of the resurrection. We hope you will return to campus, and especially to Weaver Chapel, soon and often!

***Reception following service.***

All are invited to a reception with President Brady at the Benjamin Prince House.

**Participants in the Service**

Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, 16th President of Wittenberg University

Vicar Don Humphreys, Minister, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield Ohio

David Weimer, Chapel Organist

Readings by members of the Senior Class

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