

*Sunday, June 1, 2025*  
*Seventh Sunday of Easter*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

## PRELUDE

Prelude on “Laude Anima”

(Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven)

Elizabeth A. Krouse  
tune, Craig Sellar Lang

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*It is possible to hear in Jesus’ high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ’s forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.*

## GATHERING

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**Amen.**

<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	Making Their Way	ACS 979
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**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **READING: Acts 16:16-34**

*Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.*

*gospel to the jailer and his family.*

<sup>16</sup> One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

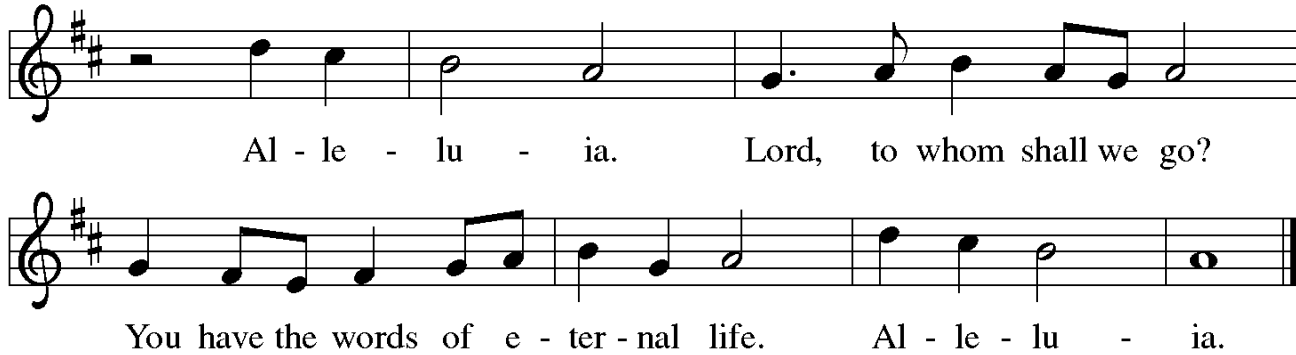
<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up

into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

*Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.*

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

**APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.*

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

#2 Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

#3 Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. We remember before you our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe; the children, youth, and young adults around us, especially: Olivia, Otto, Olivia, Paige, and Owen. May this season of Easter open us to the new ways and new ideas that they reveal to us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Comforting God, bring new hope to all in need.

*We give thanks for those who graduate from school this year, especially:*

- Michael C, Aderyn G, Rachel M, Evan S, Lauren S, Olivia S, and Elizabeth W

*We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:*

- David K, brother-in-law of Susie D, who died 5/16

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Anita T, who has been hospitalized
- Dave M, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization
- Lisa R, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 5/28
- Alex M, son of Linda M, who had an ICD implant on 5/20
- Ken, brother-in-law of Linda M, who is recovering from surgery



Hear the names of those we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

### **SHARING GOD'S MEAL**

#### **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.*

#### **OFFERING**

*Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share. Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting [blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry) or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.*



#### **OFFERING OF MUSIC**

This Joyful Eastertide

(VRUECHTEN)

John Ferguson  
tune, Dutch folk song, 17th cent.

## OFFERTORY



How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the  
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es  
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,  
**you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we  
bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with  
this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
     as we forgive those who  
     sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
     and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
     and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.  
 Thanks be to God.**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.*

### **THE COMMUNION**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **HYMN FOR COMMUNION**

**Creating God, Your Fingers Trace**

**ELW 684**

## TABLE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

2 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel  
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ  
ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to  
danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;  
sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of  
fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor  
last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

### LEAVING TO SERVE

### SENIOR RECOGNITION

#### BENEDICTION

May you be surrounded by God's love.

May God walk before you to guide you, beside you to give you courage,  
behind you to keep you safe, beneath you to give you strength,  
above you for blessing, and within you to give you peace.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata on *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

(OLD HUNDREDTH)

Michael Burkhardt  
tune, Louis Bourgeois

## **BLC Pastors**

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to [volunteersupport@blcfairport.org](mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org) and we'll follow up!

**Communicate with us:** Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

**What's happening at BLC this week?** Visit the Calendar of Events at [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org). Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

**Church office hours:** Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing [pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org).

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Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.  
"Voices Raised to You" – stanza 5, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., Music: Carolyn Jennings  
Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc., Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings  
"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded" – stanza 2, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB  
Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Prelude on "Laude Anima" Tune: Craig Sellar Lang; Music: Elizabeth A. Krouse © 2025 The Leupold Foundation  
This Joyful Eastertide Tune: Dutch folk song, 17th cent.; Music: John Furguson © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers  
Toccata on *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Tune: Louis Bourgeois © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers

## Praying for You

Today's gospel reading is first and foremost a prayer. It is Jesus' prayer, and we are given the privilege of listening in as he prays on behalf of his disciples and people of all times and places. Listeners are given a glimpse of Jesus' mission for the world—that all may be drawn into the life of the triune God. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusts this particular community of disciples—but also our communities, our lives, and our world—into the care of God.

What is it Jesus is doing when he prays? What is it the church does when it prays on behalf of the world and other people? To be prayed for by another is to know one's life is cared for and has value to the one praying on your behalf. It is to know that much of the future is out of one's own control but rests instead in the care of the Triune God. To be prayed for is to be vulnerable, dependent, and deeply loved.

Here is the astoundingly good news: Jesus prays for you, and for the communities in which we find ourselves. Whether your cup is empty or full, whether your community is in crisis or experiencing joy, whether your future is foggy or clear, Jesus loves you deeply and your life is bound to the God who loved you before the foundations of the world. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusted your life and the church's life and its entire future to the Father. What glorious good news that the future rests in the care of the Triune God, and that we, the church, are set free to make God known to the world.