

*Sunday, July 6, 2025*  
*4th Sunday after Pentecost*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## PRELUDE

Prelude on “Beach Spring”

(Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service)

William Allen Pasch  
tune, *The Southern Harp*, 1844

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attention kids:** You are welcome to select something from the activity baskets to use during worship! They are located near the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need help!

*God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus’ invitation to “take and eat . . . take and drink” is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.*

## GATHERING

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us with compassion, forgives our sins, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

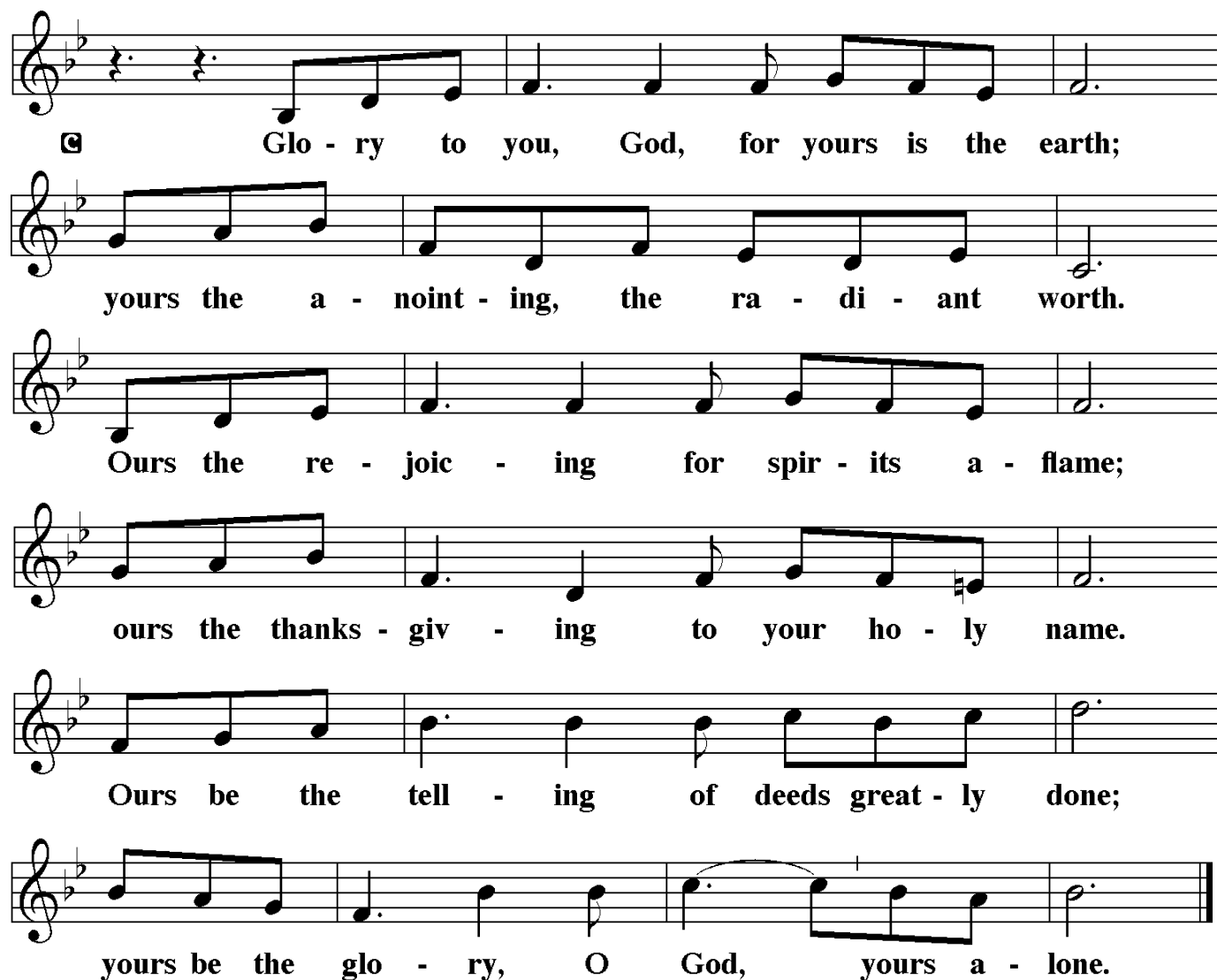
As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through ☩ Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

**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**

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;  
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.  
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **READING: Isaiah 66:10-14**

*Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.*

<sup>10</sup> Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;

rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her—

<sup>11</sup> that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast,  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream,  
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm  
and bounced on her knees.

<sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bodies shall flourish like the grass,  
and it shall be known that the power of the LORD is with his servants,  
and his indignation is against his enemies,  
and his indignation is against his enemies.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

*Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.*

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat

what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

<sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” <sup>18</sup> He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.””

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	God’s Work, Our Hands	ACS 1000
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## 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.*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who journey the road of faith by our side, especially these children, youth and young adults: Ryan, Samuel, Ryan, Seth, Sofia and Stella, as well as our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. Give all your fullness of joy.

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

- Barbara, sister of Ginny Schumacher, who died on 6/23
- Sherry, friend of Chris and Lisa M, who died on 6/21
- Michele, friend of Donna and Jim B

*We pray for those who serve, especially:*

- John, nephew of Marsha and David G, who serves with the National Guard and is being deployed to Kuwait

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

- Allison, cousin of Chris M, who is undergoing treatment for cancer
- Joe and Susan G, neighbors of Kathy F, who are struggling with multiple health issues
- Sharon, aunt of Lisa M, who is hospitalized
- Volker H, hospitalized with pneumonia
- Arlys S, aunt of Amy W-P, who is recovering from a heart attack
- Jeremy, son of Marsha and David G, who is suffering from a back injury
- Nancy M, mother of Kathy F's daughter-in-law, Meara, who fell and broke her leg while visiting family
- PJ M, friend of Ruth and Jeff H, who is beginning treatment for endometrial cancer

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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

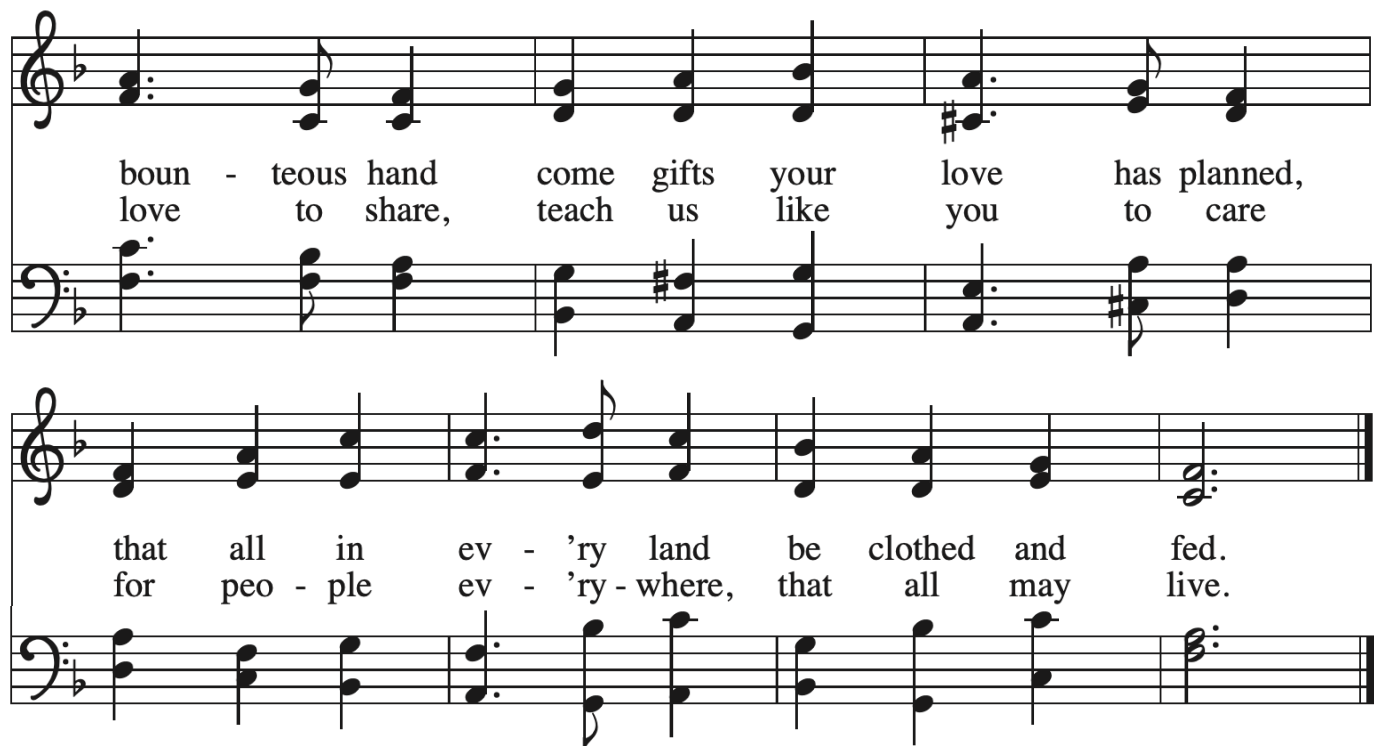
Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

### OFFERTORY

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God,

**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.**


### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Cantor*




1. Gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine,  
 2. Pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord,

*ALL*




gath - er us in - to one through bread and wine.  
 pour out up - on us now your Spir - it, Lord.

*Cantor*



Fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence,  
 Breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple,

*ALL*



fill us up to be your liv - ing pres - ence.  
 breathe new life and send us to your peo - ple.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

**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

### HYMN FOR COMMUNION

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674

## TABLE BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Mothering God,

**you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## LEAVING TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

O Zion, Haste

ELW 668

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller  
harm. Charles H. Webb

## **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

### **Additional musical leadership provided by:**

GerryAnn Westcott, piano

**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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 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188  
 “Glory to you, God” Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 12 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)  
 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” Text: Handt Hanson; Music: Handt Hanson  
 © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.  
 “Come, Let Us Eat” Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt. © Lutheran World Federation  
 “Prelude on BEACH SPRING” , Tune: The Southern Harp, 1844, Music: William Allen Pasch, © 2025 The Leupold Foundation  
 “Glory to you, God”, Music: J. Bert Carlson, © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 12 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)  
 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”, Text: Handt Hanson, Music: Handt Hanson  
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 “Canon in D”, Music: Johann Pachelbel / ed. Willard A. Palmer, © 1993 Alfred Music  
 “God of the Fertile Fields” , Text: Georgia Harkness, Music: Felice de Giardini  
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (adm. Hope Publishing Company)  
 “Come, Let Us Eat”, Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt., © Lutheran World Federation  
 “Let There Be Peace on Earth” , Words: Jill Jackson-Miller, Music: Sy Miller / harm. Charles H. Webb  
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AT BLC**

BLC is partnering with St. Paul's, Pittsford again for this  
summer's VBS program!

DETAILS: <https://blcfairport.org/vacation-bible-school-2025/>

## **Sent with the Seventy**

What does it mean to be a disciple? Today's texts answer this question in various ways.

Close your eyes and picture Jesus and his followers together. Most likely people either picture Jesus sitting around with the twelve disciples or standing in the midst of thousands preaching and teaching. Yet in today's gospel Jesus has seventy followers close enough that he trusts them to be sent out in pairs to heal the sick and announce that God has come near. Seventy trusted preachers. Thirty-five pairs of preachers telling the good news of God. So telling the story is clearly not to be limited to the twelve disciples. The good news is meant to be shared far and wide by those who trust Jesus and follow him.

This is a reminder to all of the followers of Jesus of every time and place. Sharing the good news is not just the responsibility of "professionals" like clergy. Sharing the good news is the calling of everyone who follows Jesus.

Consider the assignment Jesus gives to the ones he sends. First, they are sent to cure the sick. Second, they proclaim that "the kingdom of God has come near." It has been said that "you don't throw a drowning person a sandwich." Jesus sends the seventy out with not only words of comfort but with acts of grace as well.

God's people are sent out into the world to serve in the name of Jesus each time they gather for worship. In this gospel text we are again reminded that the gospel message is to be shared in more than just words. We share the message by welcoming others, sharing bread with the hungry, and offering compassion to the afflicted. Yet our baptism also reminds us that God has first come near to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—a relationship that is like a mother comforting a child. The promise that God is near in Christ compels us to live faithfully and compassionately, wherever our journeys take us.