



*Sunday, August 3, 2025
8th Sunday after Pentecost*



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

Adagio e dolce

Johann Sebastián Bach

from Trio Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, BWV 527

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!

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

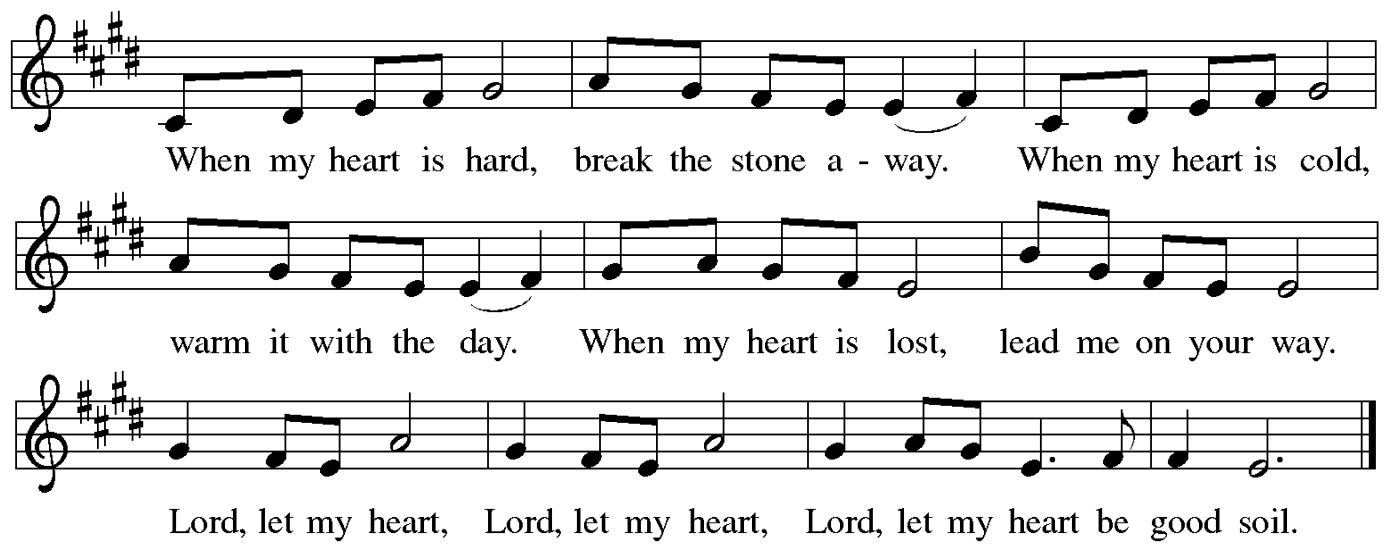
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.



The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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.

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 Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for children and youth participating in summer camps this year and the staff who make those experiences possible for them; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. 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 in need of healing, especially:

- Mary O, former member of BLC, who is preparing for hip-replacement surgery on August 6
- Jen W, who is anticipating surgery on August 12 for possible breast cancer
- Dorice R, mother of Kim K, who moved to Advent House on July 18
- Bryan R (close friend of Aaron and Koosje J) who is in need of healing prayers as he travels for treatment

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 or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERING OF MUSIC

La Réjouissance

George Frideric Handel

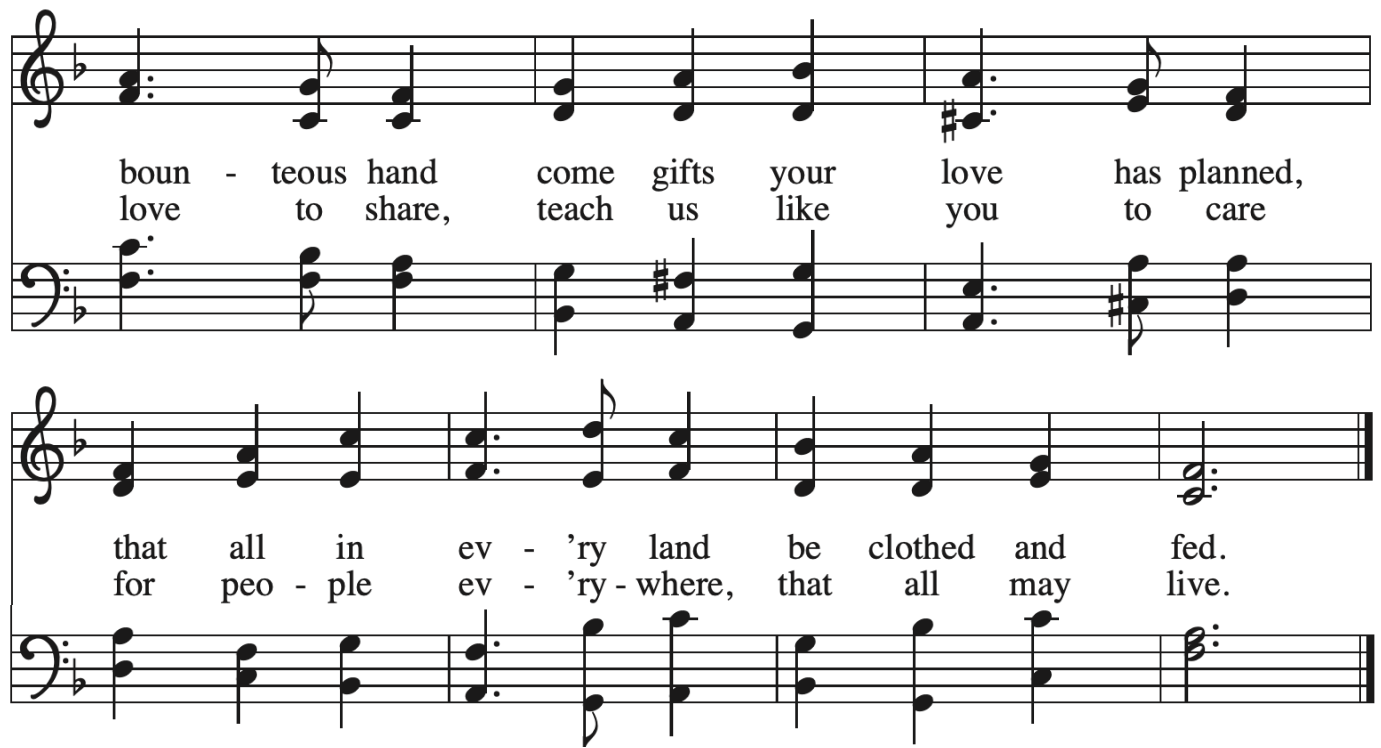
“Rejoicing” from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, HWV 351

arr. Lynne Latham

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

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV 783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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 Living Bread from Heaven | ELW 542 |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------|

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Robert W. Jones

from Sonatina for Worship No. 2

*The altar flowers this week are given in memory of Roger Bangal
by his sister Liz Bevier.*

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:

Madeleine Hoffman, violin

Kathy Moragne, cantor

Jane Morale, violin

Many thanks to Susan DePasquale, organist and pianist, for assisting us with today's worship.

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 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. 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 or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Molley Vasey is in the office from 9am-1pm Tuesday-Thursday and can be reached by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing office@blcfairport.org. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org. *Please note: Pastor Amy is on vacation through August 3.*



Evergreen East Food Distribution

Sundays, July 20 thru September 21

We'll begin packing food in the parking lot at 10:30 AM (after worship) and then distribute food at 11:15 AM. Extra produce from your garden or any non-perishable items to add to the food cupboard are welcome!

Contact Julie Owen
(jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) to get involved!



Children's Gazebo Series and Cookout

Tuesday, August 12th

Hot Dogs in the BLC Courtyard 5:30

Fairport Library for

MisterGreene at 6:30



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"God of the Fertile Fields" – stanza 1&2 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

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

"Adagio e dolce" – from Trio Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, BWV 527; Music: Johann Sebastian Bach © 1970 Dover Publications, Inc.

"La Réjouissance" – "Rejoicing" from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, HWV 351

Music: George Frideric Handel; Arranger: Lynne Latham © 2000 Ludwig Masters Publications

"Postlude" – from Sonatina for Worship No. 2; Music: Robert W. Jones© 1980 McAfee Music Corp.

Dying to be Rich

“All is vanity and a chasing after wind,” says Ecclesiastes, yet we chase wealth like it will last forever, forgetting that we ourselves will one day die and that everything we have stored up here will be useless to us. Into the tragedy of our human drive to be rich in possessions, even at the cost of being poor in everything else, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. It is first told to brothers squabbling over an inheritance, and now it is told to us, some of us squabbling with our relatives or neighbors over wealth and possessions. The rich fool, despite his great wealth, is poor in every other way, eating alone, and even dying alone. In Jesus’ depiction of this fool our own sinful hearts are exposed. We too vainly chase after even more, sacrificing right relationship with God and neighbor in the process. Death comes to the rich fool when he least expects it, as it must come to all of us. How, then, are we to be “rich toward God”? Paul reminds the Colossian Christians of their own unexpected deaths in the waters of baptism: “you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” In baptism we are joined to Christ’s death, and we are to be dead to all foolish chasing after more possessions. We have died, not alone, but with Christ. Our lives now are hidden with Christ in God, and in Christ we share a fortune of true riches that also are good for our neighbors. Death will come, but our treasure is already secure. By faith we have acquired abounding riches above, and by faith we are freed from storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth.