



Were not
our hearts
burning
within us?

LUKE 24:32

Sunday, April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter

 BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

“O filii et filiae”

(O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing – ELW 386)

Wilbur Held
tune, 15th-cent. French carol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord’s day.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. By our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in us and in all your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.



1 Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion. Not a ser - vant, but a friend,
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the first and last is with us. Sing ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

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

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.

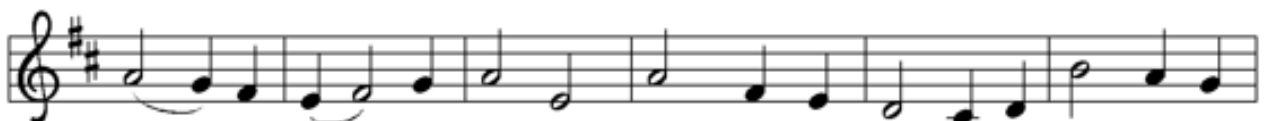
Refrain



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, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS AND JOY!

*All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. **Worship for Kids** (Ages 3 – Grade 2) meets across the hall from the sanctuary and **JOY!** (Grades 3 – 5) meets downstairs. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ."

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.

It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were

saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Day of Arising	ELW 374
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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.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who participate in our confirmation ministry and all those who are involved in sharing the faith to each new generation; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We know that all people matter in your eyes and you know their cares and concerns, their hopes and joys. We pray for those whose needs are known to us.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Reuben Hays B, who died on 3/1

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Charlie G, cousin of Chris who continues deteriorating as he lives with ALS
- Allison, cousin of Chris M, who continues to live with cancer
- Paul, Chris M's uncle, whose health is failing
- Toni T, who is preparing for treatment for her afib on 4/21
- Janet R, friend of Kathy F, who has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma and is experiencing heart problems
- Karl H, friend of Kathy F, hospitalized with infection following heart surgery

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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 or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERING OF MUSIC


Stay with Us

(*Phos hilaron* – O Gladsome Light)

words, Luke 24:29 / tr. Gracia Grinda
music, Egil Hovland

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for in the beginning you brought light out of darkness.

From the dust of the earth you made us, lifted us, and breathed life into us.

You make us your people, and promise to be our God.

You walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death.

You condemn the forces of injustice and oppression, and set free the imprisoned.

You set us free from what binds us and go with us toward your new world.

You raise up what is dead and lift up those who are without hope.

Light out of darkness! Hope from despair! Life out of death!

This is your way. We give thanks, and with all Creation we praise you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be the Body of Christ, who have died and have been raised to new life, to serve you in love without fear, in the power of your Holy Spirit and the strength of eternal life. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

United in baptism, 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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

Come to the Table

ELW 481

We Come to the Hungry Feast

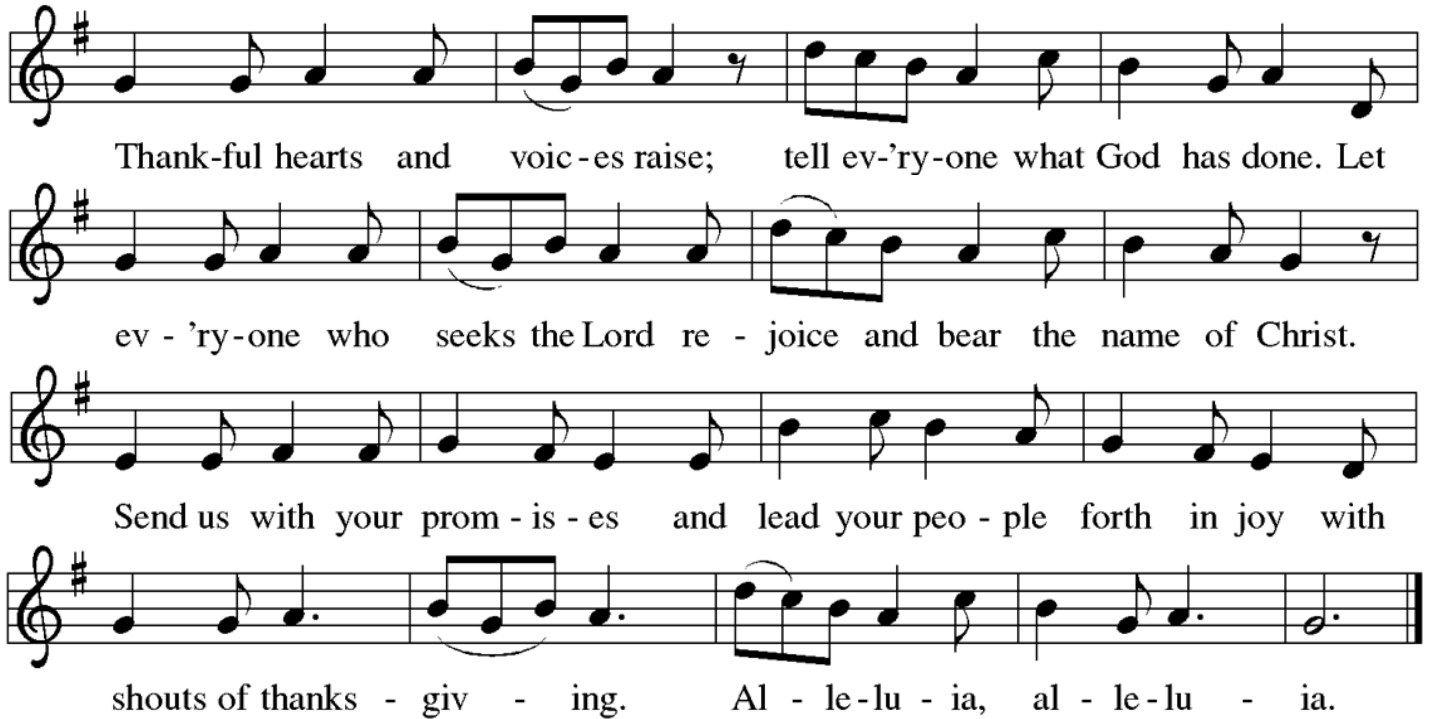
ELW 479

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

(VRUECHTEN)

Michael Burkhardt
tune, 17th-cent. Dutch folk

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

Today's Altar Flowers . . . are given in memory of Steven Donner by his sister, Tiffany Barton.

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!

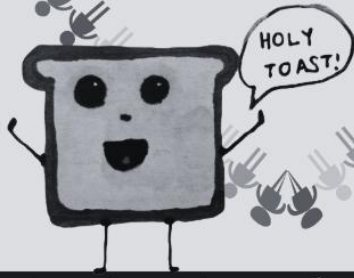
Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

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: Sandy Squires holds office hours on Wednesdays from 9-1 and is responsive to phone and email Monday through Friday during usual business hours. Please communicate your needs through the church office by phone (585) 223-0634 or by email 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



We LOVE
Our
Volunteers



Sunday Table
April 26th
10:15 - Noon

A Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
hosted by BLC Staff for anyone
& everyone who has ever shared
time and talent with BLC or
would like to learn how
to get involved.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

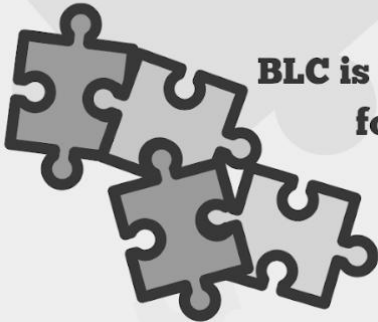
JULY 20-23, 2026



AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IN PITTSFORD

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

Ages Pre-K-5th Grade



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Portions of the Communion liturgy written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net, used by permission
Holy Communion - Setting Four, Music: Ronald A. Nelson, © 1978, 2006 Ronald A. Nelson
“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”, Lutheran Book of Worship, Text and music © 1978 Augsburg Fortress
“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”, Music: Ronald A. Nelson, Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Music
“O filii et filiae”, Tune: 15th-cent. French carol, Music: Wilbur Held, © 1964 Augsburg Publishing House
“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”, Text: Brian Wren, Music: William P. Rowan, © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.
Gospel Acclamation: Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, Music: Wilson Niwagila, Arranger: Egil Hovland
“Stay with Us”, Text: Luke 24:29 – Phos hilaron / tr. Gracia Grindal, Music: Egil Hovland
“This Joyful Eastertide”, Tune: 17th-cent. Dutch folk – VRUECHTEN, Music: Michael Burkhardt, © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers

Change of Heart

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. The writer of 1 Peter (1:17-23) instructs believers to love deeply from the heart. The disciples who encounter the risen Christ notice afterward that their hearts were "burning" within them as Jesus reveals the scriptures and then himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition, or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. They not only turn from their sin and doubt but literally change direction, going back from Emmaus to Jerusalem with renewed courage, faith, and hope. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.