



I am with you always

MATTHEW 28:20

Sunday, May 31, 2026
The Holy Trinity



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Allein Gott in der Höh

(All Glory Be to God on High)

Timothy Albrecht
tune, Nikolaus Decius

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Infinite God, Loving Mystery, Eternal Father, Life-Giving Mother:

We worship you.

Christ, the Only Begotten, Son of God, Loving Brother, Eternal Word:

We love you and trust you.

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, Energy of Love Within:

We open our hearts to your grace.

We wonder at your mystery.

We are grateful for your love.

We accept the life and grace you give us.

O Love beyond us, beside us, within us, we give ourselves to you.

Create us anew in you, teach us your way, and breathe us into the world.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty	ELW 413
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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

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. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and

to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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 Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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*We celebrate the baptism of Logan Paul Coffaro, born January 27, 2026.
Logan's parents are Liana and Eric Coffaro. His Sponsors are Jacqueline
Thibault and Michael Coffaro.*

CONGREGATION WELCOMES LOGAN

In baptism we remember you are part of God's family. Even before you could talk or listen, God chose you because God loves you.

Today, God has made you part of God's big family. The water sprinkled on your head reminds everyone of God's promise. Thank you, God, for choosing Logan. Thank you, God, for loving Logan. Thank you, God for making us all part of your big and loving family.

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 Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for ELCA leaders who serve as chaplains for the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions; 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 give thanks for:

- Logan Coffaro, baptized on 5/31
- Britta Hansen and Matthew Morano, married on 5/30
- Evy DeVoesick and Arpeet Patel, married at Bethlehem on 5/30

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

- Marcy A, who died on 5/22
- Charlie G, cousin of Chris M, who died on 5/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Nancy F who remains hospitalized
- Dottie, mother of Alli O, recently hospitalized
- Nancy N who is recovering from a fractured kneecap
- Tom S who is recovering from hip surgery
- Julie M who is recovering from a broken ankle

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

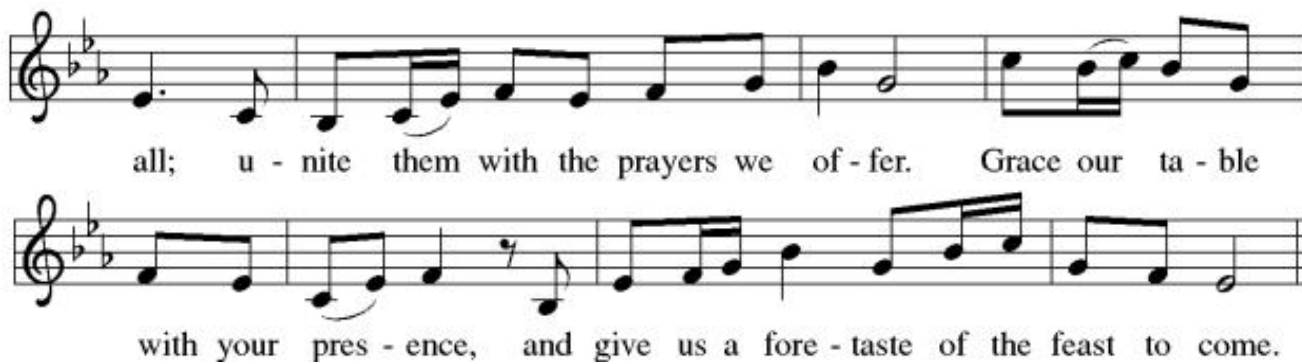
Bagatelle on “Jesus Loves Me”

John Barr
tune, William B. Bradbury

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

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are written in a simple, clear style, with stems and beams connecting them. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the rhythm of the music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line.



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

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW 735

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity

ELW 412

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.

SENDING HYMN

Go to the World

ACS 991

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Kingsfold Trumpet

(Come, Join the Dance of Trinity – ELW 412)

Alfred Fedak
tune, English folk

REMINDER: Outdoor Worship NEXT Sunday, June 7, at Center Park at 10 am!
No worship or livestream from BLC.

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 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

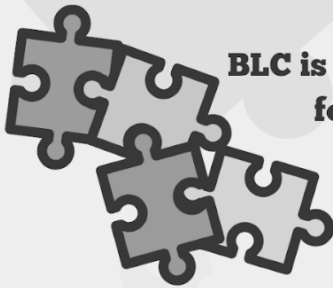
JULY 20-23, 2026



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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Congregational Welcome adapted from A Blessing for Baptizing a Baby in Prayers for Faithful Families.

Holy Communion - Setting Four, Music: Ronald A. Nelson, © 1978, 2006 Ronald A. Nelson

Gospel Acclamation: Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, Music: Wilson Niwagila, Arranger: Egil Hovland

“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

“Allein Gott in der Höh” – All Glory Be to God on High Tune: Nikolaus Decius; Music: Timothy Albrecht © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

“Bagatelle on *Jesus Loves Me*” Tune: William B. Bradbury; Setting: John Barr © 1987 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

“The Kingsfold Trumpet” Tune: English folk tune /arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams; Music: Alfred Fedak

© 1987 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Celebrating Our God beyond Understanding

The festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the wonder of relationship with God while leaving us distinctly dissatisfied with our limited understanding of what God is. While guarding against the idolatry of language, we survey our scripture, doctrine, creeds, and symbols of our heritage. Equally important, we pray for God to inspire fresh, innovative ideas of God in the present moment.

Today's gospel contains one of the few biblical references to the trinitarian formula. As the eleven are commissioned to make disciples, baptize, and teach, we are invited to consider our calling to influence the world with the good news of God's love. The text from Second Corinthians (13:11–13) also includes a kind of naming of the Holy Trinity in an affectionate sign-off of a personal letter. With Psalm 8 praising God the creator and sustainer of all creation, Genesis 1 relates the first of two creation stories, this one an ancient liturgy celebrating God as a divine plural.

That God that is beyond our understanding may be both troubling and comforting. The temptation may be to attempt to apprehend the idea of God with our intellect, offering the worshiping assembly a showcase of various models for God. The result is usually disappointing and feeds our bias toward intellectualism. Another possibility is to celebrate God's presence in all its glory and colorful wonder and our belonging to this wonder-full God.