



Sunday, October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Violin Sonata No. 3 in F, op. 1/12, HWV 370

George Frideric Handel

I. Adagio

II. Allegro

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes from the book of Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

Red hymnal - ELW - Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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Blue hymnal - ACS - All Creation Sings

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus, Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	ELW 504
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descant: Richard DePasquale

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Church's One Foundation
(AURELIA)

Karissa Dennis
tune: Samuel S. Wesley

The Chancel Bells

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP WITH JOY!

All kids ages 3 through grade 5 are welcome to a special worship time with a small snack and song, a time of hearing the Word, conversation and activities! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. Children will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung 2 times

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

words and music: Kurt Kaiser

Stanzas — 1: Cantor

repeat 1: All

2, 3: All



It on - ly takes a spark to get a fi - re go - ing,
 What a won-drous time is spring when all the tress are bud - ding.
 I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that I've found.



and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing.
 The birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing.
 You can de-pend on Him, it mat - ters not where you're bound.



That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it. You
 That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it. You
 I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want the world to know: The



spread His love to ev - 'ry - one, you want to pass it on.
 want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.



I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want the world to know: The



Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

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.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

#1 Gracious God, as we remember the Reformation, we thank you for all those who have worked to hold the church accountable to its mission. Protect them as they speak truth to power. We pray that our political leaders will serve human beings who need health care, housing, and food. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 We give thanks for the beauty of the world's islands, coastlines, and low-lying places. Keep them and their inhabitants safe from harm. We pray for those lives lost in the recent destructive hurricane that ravaged our Gulf Coast and southern states. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 We thank you for the diversity of humankind, made in your image. We pray for the future of endangered languages and cultures. Preserve them to show forth your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for students who experience academic, emotional, physical, or social difficulties in school and those who provide care and support to help them grow and thrive; for those impacted by violence in Bend, Oregon and for the lost souls and their families; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. In all our endeavors, remind us that we who are many, are one body in Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We know that you love all people, you see our needs, and you know our cares and concerns, our hopes and joys.

We pray for those who serve in the military, especially for:

- Michael C, as he enlists in the Army

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

- Deo D, former member of BLC, who died 10/16
- Jamie D, friend of the Hedin's son Andrew, who died 10/20

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Karen A, as she moves to Advent House
- Mike M, neighbor of Kathy F, who just completed triple bypass surgery
- Brendan P undergoing treatment for cancer

Hear these concerns we raise in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

Love, in Christ

text: Dorothy R. Schultz

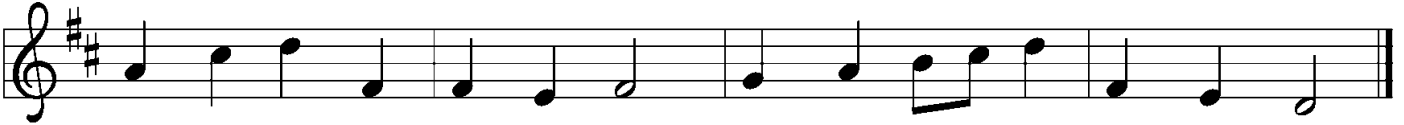
Ralph C. Schultz

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,

and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

**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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
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



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

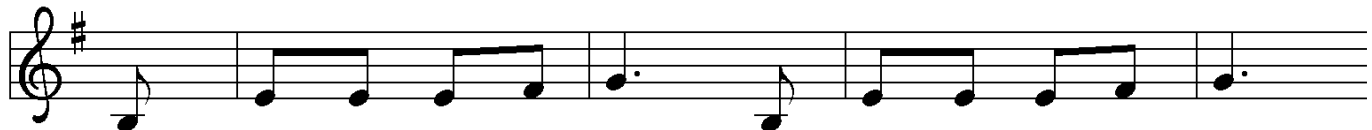
Built on a Rock
What Feast of Love

ELW 652

ELW 487

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



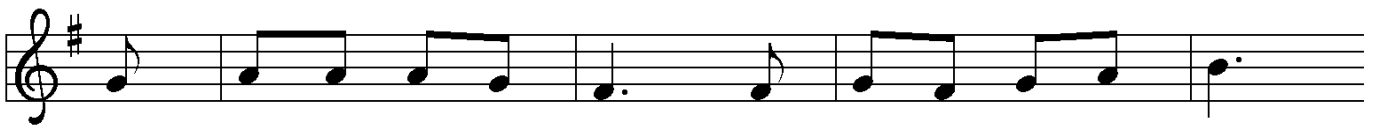
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



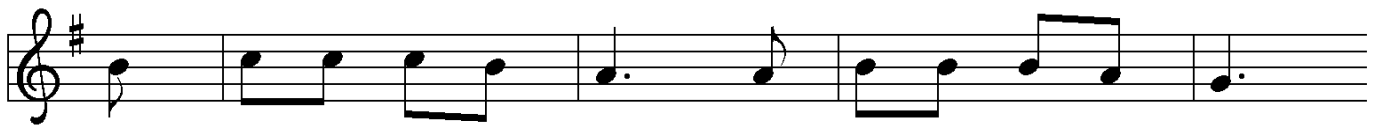
pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;



me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	The Church of Christ, in Every Age	ELW 729
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descant: David M. Cherwien

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso e vivace

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

from Organ Sonata II in C Minor, op. 65/2



The flowers are given in loving memory of Jim Cook by his wife Sherry.

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:

The Folk Group

Trumpet: Richard DePasquale

Percussion: Chrisanne Gates, Margie Gaul, Dave Wideman

Flute: Sue Cardinal

Special thanks . . . to our guest violinist, Betsy Sprague, for assisting us with today's music in 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: 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

BETHLEHEM
Building
LUTHERAN
Lasting
CHURCH
Community

that follows Jesus

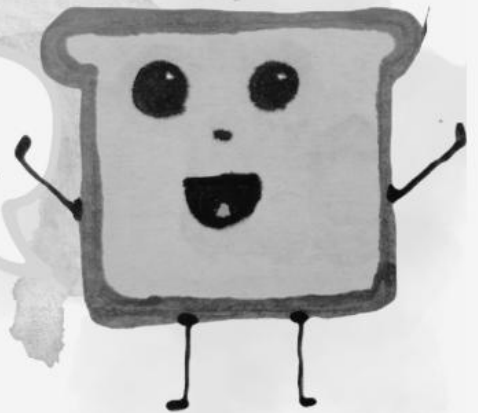


Annual Meeting- Oct. 25th, 10:15am
in-person only

Sunday Table - November 1st

I'm so glad we celebrate
All Saints Sunday.

Me too. It warms my heart
to remember and share
memories of my loved ones.



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“Glory to You, God” *All Creation Sings* – Holy Communion, Setting 12
Text: Susan Palo Cherwien; Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Augsburg Fortress
“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” – WOV 612 Music: Caribbean traditional
Arranger: Mark Sedio Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
“Take My Life, That I May Be” – ELW 685, stt. 1, 2 Text: Frances R. Havergal, alt.
Music: William H. Havergal © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
“Come to the Table” – ELW 481 Text: Claire Cloninger; Music: Martin J. Nystrom
© 1991 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music (adm. Word Music)
“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford
Music: Anonymous, Central America; English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress
“Violin Sonata No. 3 in F Major” – op. 3/12, HWV 370, Music: George Frideric Handel
“The Church’s One Foundation”, Tune: Samuel S. Wesley – aurelia
Music: Karissa Dennis, © 2023 GIA Publications, Inc.
“Word of God, Come Down on Earth” – ELW 510, Text: James Quinn, SJ
Music: Johann R. Ahle, Text © James Quinn, SJ (admin. Selah Publishing Co. Inc.)
“Pass It On”, Text and Music: Kurt Kaiser, © 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc. (adm. Capitol CMG Publishing)
“Love, in Christ”, Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, Music: Ralph C. Schultz, © 1979 Concordia Publishing House

Know God, Know Ourselves

This is a Sunday packed with beautiful images, deep-seeded ideas, and a rich history. For life-long Lutherans, these things can provoke a sense of pride in our denomination, but Reformation Sunday is not "Lutheran Pride Day." Instead it is a day focused on knowing God truthfully and, in light of God's unbelievable grace, understanding who we are as people of faith and children of God.

Luther spent a great deal of time trying to know who God was and to find ways of expressing what he came to know and believe so that others would know God too. He used coarse language, drank beer, and wrote hymns using tunes people knew and recognized. When he wrote his catechism he used language his small son could understand. He even translated the Bible into the language people spoke. Truth about God and our faith, as complex as it is, should be something we can grasp and wrestle with.

Reformation Sunday is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. The law is like a mirror in a room with intense fluorescent lights; it shows us who we are with every flaw and wrinkle. But God doesn't look at us in that mirror. The truth about God brings us new knowledge about ourselves. God shines a new light on us, forgiving and forgetting our iniquities and sins.

The message of Reformation Sunday is God's love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us as people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are seen. We are known. We are loved. We matter!