



Sunday, August 30 ~ 13th Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prelude: Aria

Paul Manz

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with a cup filled with water and an empty bowl. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of physical distance and fasting from the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Gathering Hymn :

For the Beauty of the Earth

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1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

(remaining music on the following page)

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.

You are the treasured people of the Lord,

a people holy to the Lord our God.

Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

Talk about them when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

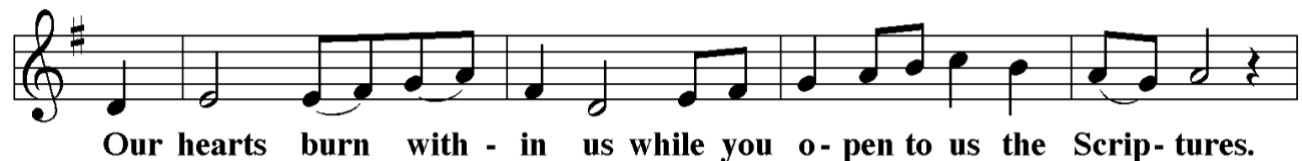
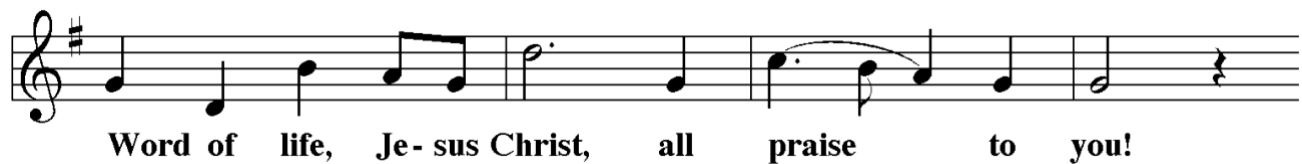
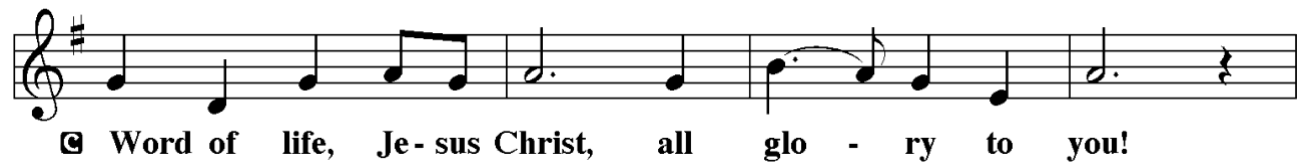
⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation:



The Gospel according to Matthew.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Day by Day

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1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

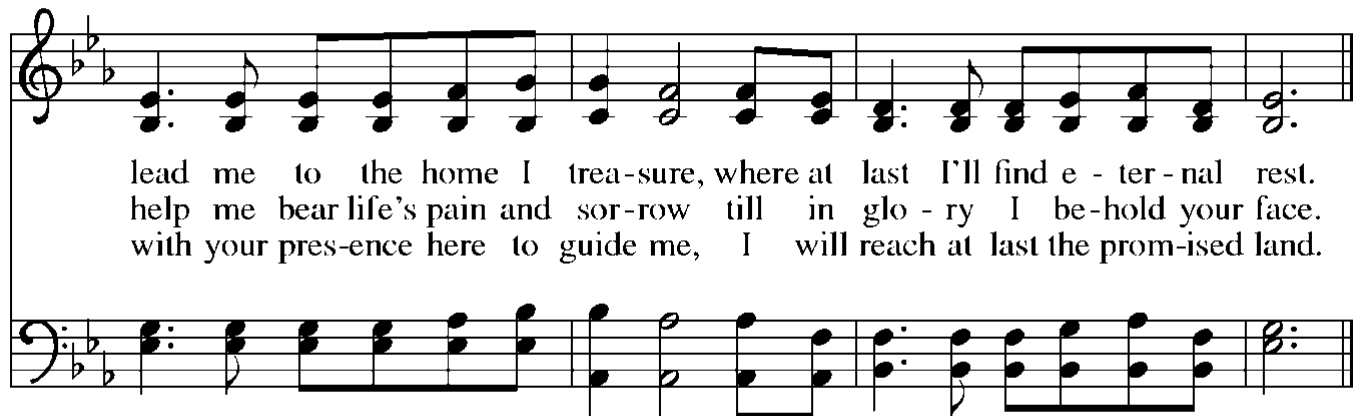
to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur-ing grace. Sav-ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior,



lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face.
with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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Response to the Word:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.



If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.

Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:
Andante Religioso

Francis Thome

(Phyllis Stock, piano)

Offertory:

(WOV pg. 50)

A musical score for a offertory, consisting of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

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.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God, our Creator,

you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world:

God of Life, Creator of all things,

How can we ever thank you enough for all of the gifts you have given us? This beautiful world, full of wonders and mysteries, our homes, food, lives of meaning, and relationships that bring us joy and hope. All of these are gifts from You. Even in this time of pandemic, we thank you Lord! And, chiefly, we thank you for our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us, and gives us the strength to follow His example.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

Gracious God,

We thank You for uniting us as one in holy baptism. We give thanks for this community of people at Bethlehem who gather for worship, even virtually, and commit to growing together in You. This week we pray especially for Tom and Christin & Jenna, Zoe, Kevin and Becky & Jillian, Alexander, Don and Sandy, David and Lisa, and Sarah. We also remember our companion synod twin parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

Source of all comfort,

We are aware that many are in pain this day. There are those who suffer from physical and mental illness, emotional turmoil, and broken relationships. There are also those who mourn the death of loved ones. Today, we especially remember those we lift before you, silently and aloud, and those affected by the coronavirus.

May Your healing presence touch their lives, and the lives of all those in need of Your comfort and care.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for the leadership of our church, and ask that you continue your Spirit's presence in their lives. We ask Your blessings on Pastor Hoffman and Pastor Amy today, that they may feel your presence with them, know You are always with them, and clearly see the ministry You are calling them to.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

God, in your deep compassion, received these prayers we offer to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

We pray for those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.

- *Carol Stevens (sister of Kathy Moragne) as she anticipates surgery on 9/2*
- *Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers*

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy 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

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn:	<i>Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing</i>	545
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(Music on the following page)

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Con moto, maestoso

François Couperin

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, with the first two stanzas having three verses each. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady piano accompaniment.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Calendar for week of August 30 – September 6

(Updated on 8/26/20 at 12 noon, be sure to visit the BLC Today tab on our Website for updates throughout the week)

Sunday, August 30

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)

Monday, August 31

Pastors' Sabbath

Tuesday, September 1

6:30 pm Zoom* Reopening Team
([Join](#) ID 824 6235 3239)
7:30 pm Zoom* Women's
Fellowship
([Join](#) ID 842 5930 5184)

Wednesday, September 2

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) ID 455 211 942)
5:30 pm Zoom* Nominating
Committee
7:00 pm Midweek Evening Prayer
& Reflection (BLC Parking Lot)

Thursday, September 3

9:30 am Zoom* CMT
([Join](#) ID 878 5303 1235)

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Summer office hours will be in effect from Memorial Day - Labor Day! We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman remain available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

As we continue to do our part to practice social distancing, we ask that you only enter the building if it is for an essential activity. Because we cannot be certain of the cleanliness and safety of surfaces, we encourage all building users to take care to disinfect surfaces before and after use.

There Must Be Another Way

Peter may be the “rock” on which Christ will build the church (Matt. 16:18), but when Jesus reveals the suffering that will come first, Peter becomes a tempter and “stumbling block.” Assuming God must have a different way to save the world, Peter protests Jesus’ suffering and death. Jesus explains to Peter and all his disciples that, in fact, this is the way to life—losing one’s life in order to find it.

By tempting Jesus to an easier way than his journey through suffering to resurrection, Peter personifies a temptation common to all generations of Jesus’ disciples: seeking a way to avoid “losing oneself,” instead of surrendering all to and with the one we follow. Rather than losing our lives—our selves, possessions, and time—we hold on more tightly, afraid of what will happen to our comfort, success, and identity if we let go. Those things we hold onto then become, like Peter, stumbling blocks along the way of self-giving love.

But while “saving one’s life” sounds sensible, those things also stand in the way of the new life into which Jesus beckons us to follow him. Perhaps Peter’s problem is that he sees only the suffering and death, without grasping the new life that comes through it. In times when we too are tempted by worldly ways of comfort and success, convinced that *surely* God must have an easier way than the way of self-giving love, this gospel reminds us that resurrection and life await on the other side of suffering and death.

This is the way of our God who becomes human in Jesus: emptying himself of power and dignity, losing his very own life for the sake of the world’s life. Seen through the lens of resurrection just ahead on the journey, what other way could there be?

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