



Sunday, October 18 ~ 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Zacchaeus perpetuates and profits from an economic system that robs and defrauds those on the bottom to benefit those on the top. He is a wealthy tax collector, which means he is not welcomed or wanted by most. Jesus flips the script by inviting Zacchaeus to offer him hospitality, which unravels the crowd's expectations since they deem Zacchaeus a sinner and an unworthy host. Jesus invites Zacchaeus into community. Jesus

invites Zacchaeus to belong. Zacchaeus responds with generosity, vowing to share his resources equitably. Zacchaeus shows us a holy and joyful unraveling.

Prelude: Make Glad the City of God, Opus 640

Carson P. Cooman

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells." Psalm 46:4 (NIV)
(Used by permission of the composer.)

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.

Call to Worship and Confession:

God is in this house today,

For God longs to be in relationship with us.

God is in this house today,

For God loves the sinners and the saints.

God is in this house today.

For God sees all, claims all, and loves all.

God is in this house today.

So let us worship Holy God.

As we gather, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ 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.

Gathering Hymn :

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O Lord God, unravel us from the ways that we are entangled with systems of oppression and harm. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Song of Thanksgiving

ELW 508, vs 1

As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth, as snow from the heav-ens re -

fresh-ing the land. Then soft-en our soil that the good seed may grow and rip - en rich

fruit to re - turn to your hand. We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word; we

thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten - der toil. We bless you, best farm-er, for

hun - dred - fold yield, for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth, as snow from the heav-ens re - fresh-ing the land. Then soft-en our soil that the good seed may grow and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand. We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word; we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten - der toil. We bless you, best farm-er, for hun - dred - fold yield, for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.'

Reading: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. ³And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore

tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchae’us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸And Zacchae’us stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The word of the Lord.

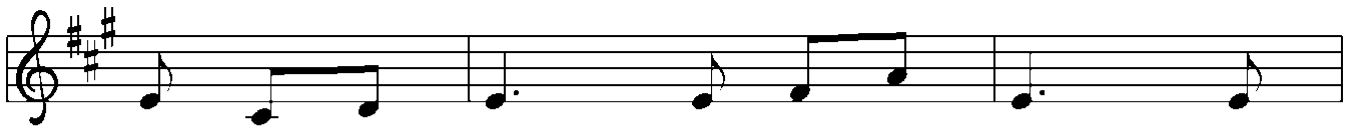
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

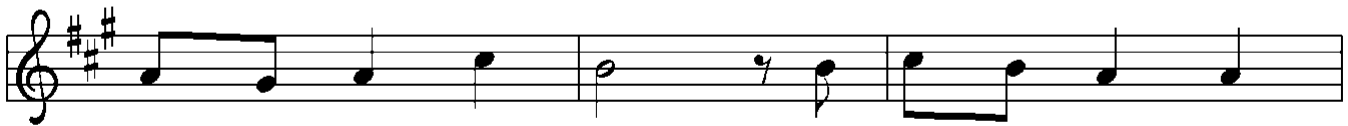
Hymn of the Day:

We Walk by Faith

#634



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Apostles Creed:

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.**

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:

You Are My Hiding Place

Michael Ledner, arranged by BLC Folk Group
BLC Folk Group (Director, Rich Towsley)



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts, but what you most would trea - sure, our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts. All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove. We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.'

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

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.

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God who knows our unraveling, knit us together in love. When we think it may be too hard to see you or we think you may not even see us, then like Zaccheaus, call us down from our striving and settle us in your presence. God of compassion,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the need of those known to us. We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- *The birth of Arianna in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Arianna means "most holy". She is the daughter of Tendai and Challenge*

We lift up prayers for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- *Paula who died on 10/13*
- *Rick, son of Herb and Sue, who died on 10/2*
- *Glen (friend of Becki & Bob) who died on 10/4*

Those in need of healing, especially:

- *Trace (3 year old grandson of Jan & Howard) who is scheduled to have surgery on 10/22*
- *Cathleen (sister of Sue)*
- *Waverly (friend of Phyllis) recovering at home and still seeking a kidney donor*
- *Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters*
- *Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones*
- *Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers*

God of compassion,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Roger and Rosemarie, Ron and Sandy, Mike and Elizabeth (Ryan and Olivia), Linda, and Kim. We also pray for your sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of compassion,

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers that we offer you now. God of compassion,

Hear our prayer.

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

Amen

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:

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>Go, My Children, with My Blessing</i>	#543
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(music on the following page)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chats

Postlude: Symphony from the Bell Anthem

Henry Purcell



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's hap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Calendar for week of October 18 – October 25

(Updated on 10/14/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, October 18

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee with a
Pastor
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, October 19

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, October 20

6:00 pm BSA Troop 2019 Court of
Honor at BLC

Wednesday, October 21

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
(Beth will add ID INFO)
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, October 22

Friday, October 23

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
2:30 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, October 24

Sunday, October 25 ***Reformation Sunday***

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
10:00 am Annual Congregational
Meeting
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!

Church Office Hours: 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 remains 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.**

Reflection

Life turns on a dime sometimes, doesn't it? Things can unravel at the drop of a hat - a diagnosis, an accident, a relationship dies, a job offer arrives, your house sells in 5 days - you get the picture. So in this week's gospel (Luke 19: 1-10), we find several unravelings. Zacchaeus, a Jew and a tax collector so an outcast among his people, wants to see Jesus and climbs a tree to be able to do so. When Jesus sees him, he calls him down because Zacchaeus was to be hosting Jesus in his home that night.

Some grumblers in the crowd complained that Jesus should not be hanging out with a traitor and a sinner. Apparently Zacchaeus heard and told Jesus that he would give half of his wealth to the poor and anyone he had defrauded, he would pay back four times as much. (It seems that tax collectors make their money by collecting taxes plus more for their "commission.") We don't get to know the rest of Zacchaeus's story after Jesus tells the grumblers that salvation has come to the tax man's house and after all, he came to reach sinners and the lost but it is likely that Zacchaeus's old life is unraveled and a new one is born.

But what about the grumblers? What unraveled for them? Perhaps they want Jesus to judge as they do and condemn those that they condemn. When he doesn't how should they respond? Maybe Jesus was not just referring to Zacchaeus when he reminded the crowd that he came for sinners and the lost. We know the rest of the story of Jesus's time on earth, of course, and so many of his followers were looking for a political leader and Jesus kept unraveling that assumption of him.

So then, who are we in this story? Are we chasing after Jesus because we want to hear him and change? Or are we the grumblers wanting divine intervention on those we don't like? I know I am more of a grumbler than a Zacchaeus but I keep trying. Jesus changed Z's life by recognizing him and by reminding the grumblers what his mission was on earth and thereby suggesting that the grace of God is available to all of us imperfect as we are. The challenge then and now is to allow grace to unravel us and re-ravel us in a new way. Alleluia!

~ Kris Kerr

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Call to Worship by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

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