

Sunday, January 17 ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Prelude: Prelude on "Salzburg" (ELW #310) James Biery

Gathering Words and Welcome

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare a worship space in your home with a bowl of water. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of continued physical distancing, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator, the Beloved One, the Comforter.
Amen.

Beloved in the Lord: we confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

In the waters of baptism we become siblings of Christ and share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

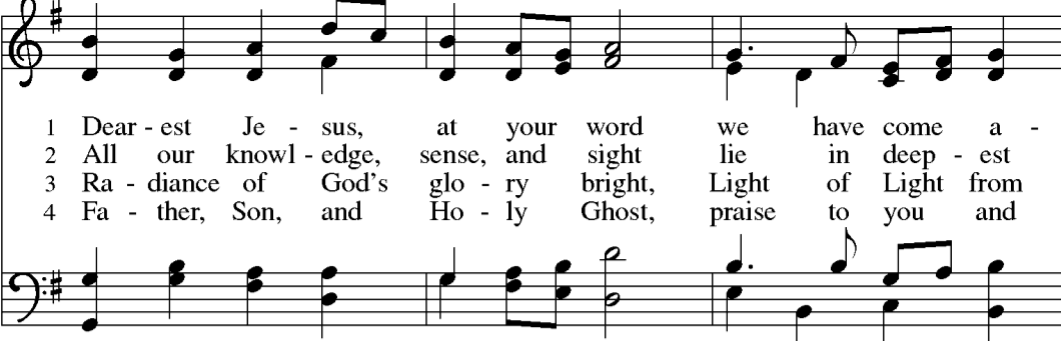
And also with you.

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.

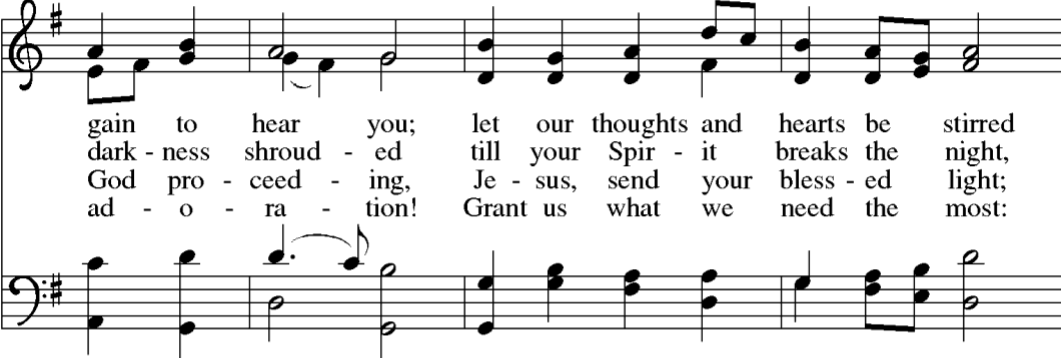
Gathering Hymn :

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

#520



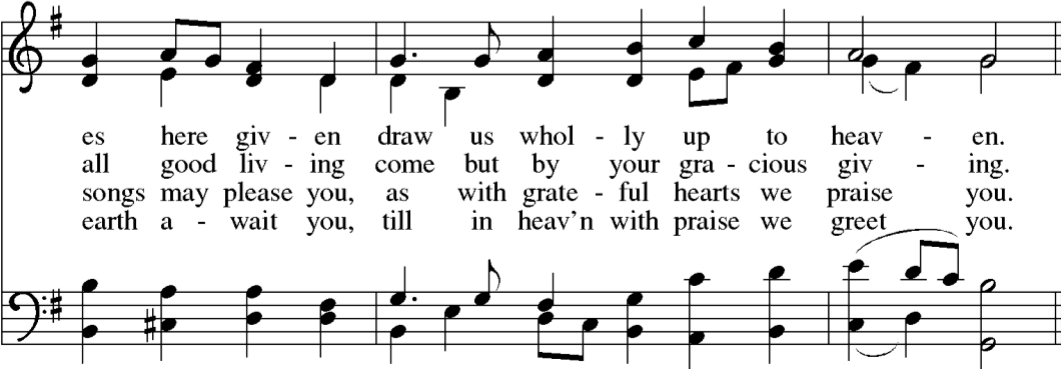
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

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. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him

everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your
book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Love Has Come #292, vs 3

Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er - last-ing and free. Love is

Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love!

Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high! _____

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

The Apostles' Creed:

Together 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
Arise! Shine!

Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis)

Joseph M. Martin

Offertory:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

#680 vs. 3



The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics printed below the notes. 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."

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. O God,

receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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 of forgiveness, you see us always and welcome us in love. Help us to forgive those who hurt us and offer your welcome to our neighbors. Enable us to hear and recognize you as Samuel spoke saying, "Speak, your servant is listening!" Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great!

As the pandemic continues, we pray for doctors, nurses, emergency responders and health care workers as they continue to serve at great personal risk and sacrifice for the sake of our health and well-being. Hear us O God,
Your mercy is great!

We pray together for our nation's newly elected president, vice president, and congressional representatives that the Spirit will grant them wisdom, strength, commitment to serving all people, a deep understanding of justice and mercy, and the courage to enact change for the well-being of our communities and nation. Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great!

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: Jeff & Terri, Morey, Dale, Gary, Hans & Robyn (Trysta), Ronald & Marja (Dylan). We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great!

Remember in prayer those who continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and job searching as a result of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19 and those intentions that are deep in our minds and hearts, either silently or aloud. Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great!

We offer in prayer to you those whose needs are known to us.

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

- Walter Zagorski, father of Glen Zagorski who died on 1/10
- Judy Buck, mother of Mary Osgood's friend who died on 1/7
- John Adler, son of former BLC pastor Dallas Adler who died on 1/2
- Bob Paoni, father of Sherry & Jim Cook's son-in-law who died on 12/27

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Evelyn Ekegren, mother of Kay Slattery who is recovering from a recent fall
- Joanne Goethais, mother of Vicki Beutel who is recovering from a recent stroke
- Bernice Stevens, mother of Kathy Moragne who is recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Anne, aunt of Marja Roney who is starting chemotherapy following a recent lung cancer diagnosis
- 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 or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Olive Jameson, mother of Jackie Stivers
 - Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock
 - Clara & George, parents of Waverly

Hear us O God,

Your mercy is great!

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; 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:

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>Build Us Up, Lord</i>	#670
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(see following page for music)

Go in peace beloved ones. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chat

Postlude: O God of God, O Light of Light

arr. Carl Schalk



1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our



us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our



ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.



Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us



guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us



world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain



Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in



faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your



word to spread the news of your Son!

Calendar for week of January 17 – January 24

(Last updated on 1/13/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, January 17

30 Hour Famine 1/15 – 1/17

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial
Conversation hosted by the
Pastors
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
6:30 pm Zoom* Story time for
pre-K through 5th grade and
families
([Join](#) or use ID 815 7566 9638)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, January 18

BLC Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

No Virtual Youth Choir today
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, January 19

BLC Office Closed**
6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, January 20

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, January 21

10:00 am Zoom* Liturgy
Planning Meeting
6:30 pm Zoom* Council Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 856 5035 0877)

Friday, January 22

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, January 23

Sunday, January 24

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee & Crucial
Conversation hosted by the
Pastors
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office on Tuesdays from January 5 – March 10. Pastor Amy remains available on Tuesdays and can be reached by phone when she is not in the office.**

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.**

“Follow Me”

We live in a culture of invitation. Television invites us to join complicated story arcs so that we feel connected to the characters. Commercials invite us to see their product as a new movement and invite us to join it. We are invited to join groups on Facebook and invited into chat rooms and blog responses. The number of social networks is exploding as we are invited into ever expanding ways to connect.

Invitation is an essential part of our walk of faith, but here we frequently see ourselves not as the invited but rather the one who is supposed to be doing the inviting. We can misuse invitation, maybe using the phrase “invite Jesus into your heart,” which often results in the misunderstanding that we are carrying a little bit of Jesus wherever we go. But today’s gospel (John 1:43-51) emphasizes not invitation as our call to others to join the walk of faith but rather Jesus’ invitation to us to follow him. Jesus’ invitation is not that we carry him with us but rather that we follow where he would lead. When Christ invites Philip to “follow me,” may we hear that invitation in our own ears.

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