

Sunday, February 21 ~ *First Sunday in Lent*

We see Jesus in the wilderness and realize that there is no place where Jesus does not go. Our time in wilderness does not mean that we're forsaken. Where do you see Jesus in worship and in our world today?

Prelude: Psalm Prelude, Opus 32, No. 2 Herbert Howells

Psalm 37:11 "But the meek shall possess the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity."

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

To prepare a worship space in your home light a candle, gather a bowl of water, and a cross. The candle reminds us of Christ's light. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through Baptism. The cross reminds us Christ is present with us in all things. Over the last year, we have learned anew that Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism, across time and space.

Gathering Hymn :

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

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1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

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.

Show us your ways, O Lord,

and teach us your paths.

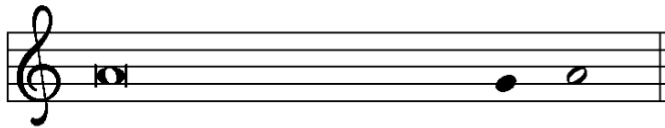
Your word revives our souls;

your word is alive and gives wisdom.

You send forth your word as healing balm,

and in your word made flesh, Jesus Christ, you rescue us.

Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



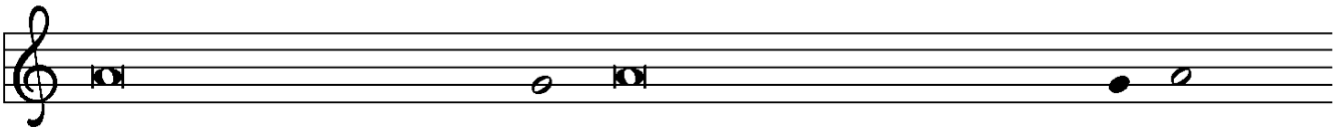
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



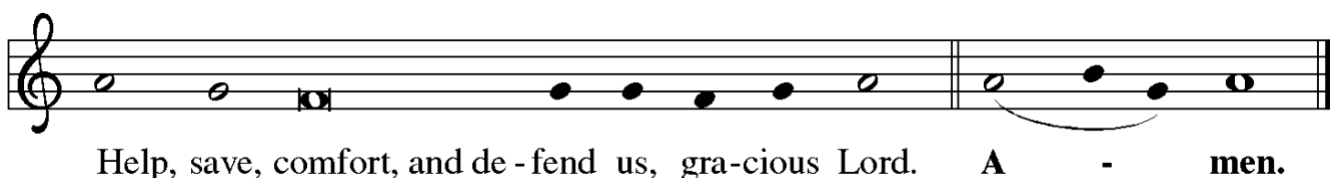
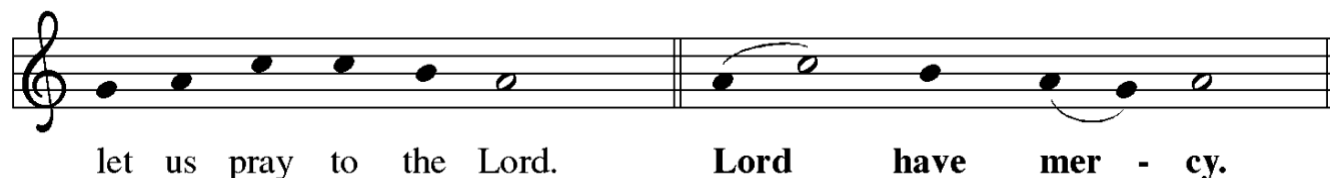
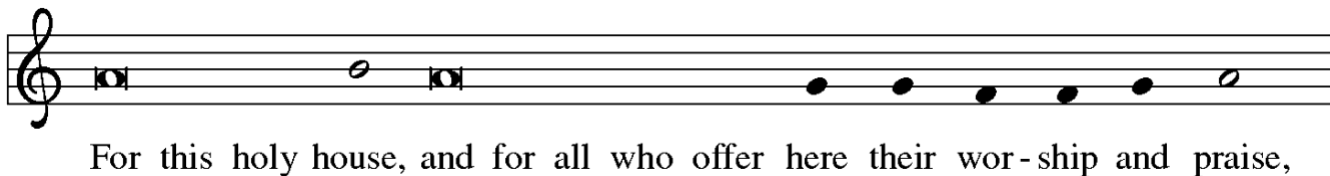
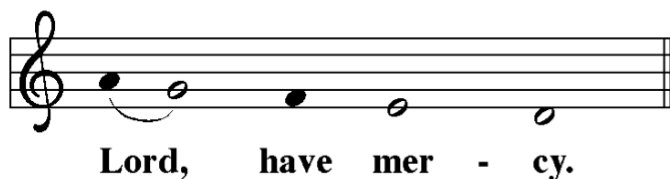
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look
full in his won - der - ful face;
And the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim in the
light of his glo - ry and grace.

The Gospel according to Mark.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:	Restore In Us, O God	#328
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1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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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

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

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:

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Aaron David Miller

Youth Choir (Annette Finkbeiner, Director; Susan DePasquale, piano)

Offertory:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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A musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'Create in Me a Clean Heart'. The score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your'. The music is arranged in two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano part consists of chords and single notes, providing harmonic support for the voices.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Gracious God,

in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

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.

Brief silence

Renewing God, in this Lenten season we each need the opportunity, to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to re-orient our head and heart so that we may fill them with life-affirming activities and thoughts. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

All Powerful God, grant us the gift of understanding. Help us to understand the feelings of others, the worries of others, the goals of others. At the same time, help us to understand ourselves, our actions and our reactions. Widen our vision beyond our own small world, to embrace with knowledge and love the worlds of others. Help us, Lord, to always see you at work in our lives and in the lives of others. Bless us with insight, acceptance and love, that is tempered by you, who are all things to all people. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that you see us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Larry & Ros., Rick & Kay, Ruth & Alan, Andrew, Erik & Carla (Annelise & Allie). We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

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

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

- Bernice, mother of Kathy who died on 2/1
- Cathy, niece of Ruth who died on 1/30

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Riley, nephew of Kathy
- Milani, 14 month old granddaughter of Don's niece who had surgery for a benign brain tumor
- Jim who is facing several health challenges
- Jim, father of Hans, who begins a new chemotherapy treatment
- Evelyn & Willard (parents of Kay) as Evelyn recovers from a fall and they prepare for a transition
- Maria, friend of Neil whose cancer has spread
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she begins dialysis
- 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
 - Ken, brother-in-law of Linda

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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:

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen

Sending Hymn:	<i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i>	#768
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(Music on the following page)

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Andante con moto e maestoso

Flor Peeters

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
 blind with - out thy Light to see. Lord, just al - ways

dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

D.C.

Calendar for week of February 21 – February 28

(Last updated on 2/17/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study (*NOTE TIME*)
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, February 22

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, February 23

BLC Office Closed**

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
6:30 pm Virtual Re-Opening
Team
([Join](#) or use ID 824 6235 3239)

Wednesday, February 24

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
3:00 pm Education Planning
Meeting
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:00 pm Zoom* Midweek Lenten
Worship Series
([Join](#) or use ID 837 4022 0666)
8:00 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, February 25

Friday, February 26

Pastor's Sabbath

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

Saturday, February 27

Sunday, February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
11:00 am – 1 pm Pickup
Sweetheart Sale Orders at the
District Lot
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)

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office** on Tuesdays through 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.**

*Today's reflection (as shared in the weekly STAR) is taken from the **BLC Lenten Devotional** shared in Quarterly Mailer. If you did not receive a Quarterly Mailer in the mail or you would like additional paper copies of the devotional, please contact the church office. Consider reflecting each day during the season of Lent on one of the writings shared.*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ...The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- from Psalm 46 NIV.

Not too long ago, my husband David and I walked down a street in Wittenberg, Germany. As we rounded the corner of this historic road, my eyes immediately were drawn to the top of the tower of the Castle Church (known as the church where Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door). The words encircling the top were written in German, but I knew them well. **Ein Feste Burg, ist unser Gott. A Mighty Fortress is our God!** I was surprised at the emotion I felt at seeing these words. I was standing on the road, trod frequently by Luther, himself. I imagined the pain that Luther endured as he walked through his own wilderness. His very life was endangered as he challenged the religious and political figures of the day. Seeing these words proclaimed boldly at the tower's peak is a witness to Luther's source of strength: The Lord Almighty. I am thankful for his conviction that the words of scripture be written in the language of the people, so that all may find hope, comfort, and peace, through God's Word, just as Luther did as he walked in his wilderness.

This past year, the people of this world have traveled through many wildernesses. I often lay awake at night, in my own personal wilderness, worrying about the pandemic and the suffering it has brought worldwide, the divisions in our country, and any personal issue I may be facing. During the dark of night, I often reflect on the scripture verses that my father would quote, especially Psalm 46 which sustained him in his final hours. I remember how my mother would share with me that singing hymns would comfort her as she faced widowhood. Sometimes, I silently "sing" my favorite hymns. I have found hope in my wilderness from the words from Luther's well-known hymn, **A Mighty Fortress is Our God.** I am particularly drawn to the final words of this song. *"Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever! God's promise to walk through the wilderness with me is a forever and unbroken promise. "This is most certainly true."*

Marcia Gerhardt

God of Comfort and Might, we praise You that Your Kingdom is our dwelling place, now and for all eternity. AMEN.

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