

**Sunday, March 21 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*We see Jesus in loss and recognize the fulfillment of all God's promises. When the hour comes, Jesus faces death for the sake of the world. Where do you see Jesus in worship and in our world today?*

Prelude: Prelude on "Seelenbräutigam" (ELW #624)

Paul Manz

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 :	<i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>	#759
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1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

*(remaining music on the following page)*

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**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.**

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:**

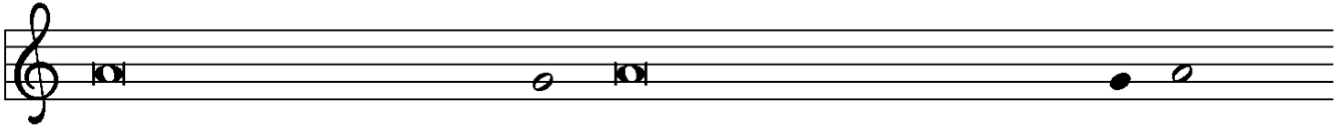
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**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.



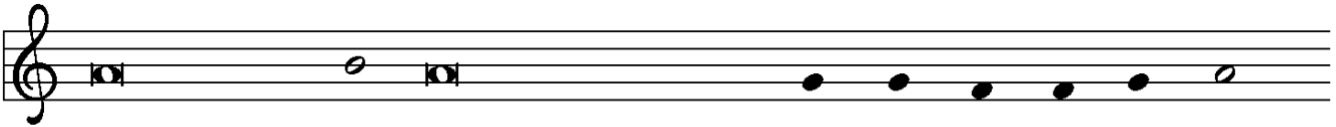
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**Prayer of the Day:**

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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;

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a piano accompaniment on the left and a vocal line on the right. The piano part is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal line is in the same time signature and key signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system of music covers the lyrics 'Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look'. The second system covers 'full in his won - der - ful face;'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, while the vocal line features a melody with some grace notes and a final cadence.

And the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim in the  
light of his glo - ry and grace.

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

**Gospel: John 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted u

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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:

What Wondrous Love Is This #666 from the Southern Harmony tradition arr. Lorinda Jones  
*Dulcimer Group (Rich Towsley, Director)*

Offertory:	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>	#188
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Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The music is primarily chordal, with some melodic lines in the upper staff. 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 second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The music continues with chordal accompaniment and some melodic lines. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

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

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The music concludes with chordal accompaniment and some melodic lines. The lyrics are: "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:

*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.

*Brief silence*

Lord, as we open our eyes to see the world, help us to open our eyes to see where you want us to be. Help us to open our eyes to see and to follow Jesus, especially in this time of Lent. Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Lord, help us to remember those in our community who are hurting or suffering in this time, due not to choices but circumstances beyond their control. As many of us choose to fast and separate from things we enjoy most of the year in this time of Lent, help us to remember those who go without every day and long for full stomachs and a sense of security and belonging. 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: Jeff & Laurie; Doug & Celia; John & Debbie; Rich & Sue; Anita. 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 for those in our congregation, family, and community. We raise these people to you in our hearts or in our voice.

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- Hunter, nephew of Lisa who has successfully completed treatment for cancer

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

- Kevin (brother of Alan) who died on 3/13
- Hans (father of Andy's cousin Brigit) who died on 3/14

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Beth as she anticipates surgery on 3/25
- Karen, and her daughter, Amber, friends of Carol. Karen has been placed in Hospice care
- Christina, friend of Carol, who fell and injured herself at work
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she seeks 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 or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

*Long silence*

Hear us, O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

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>Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways</i>	#772
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(*Music on the following page*)

Dismissal:

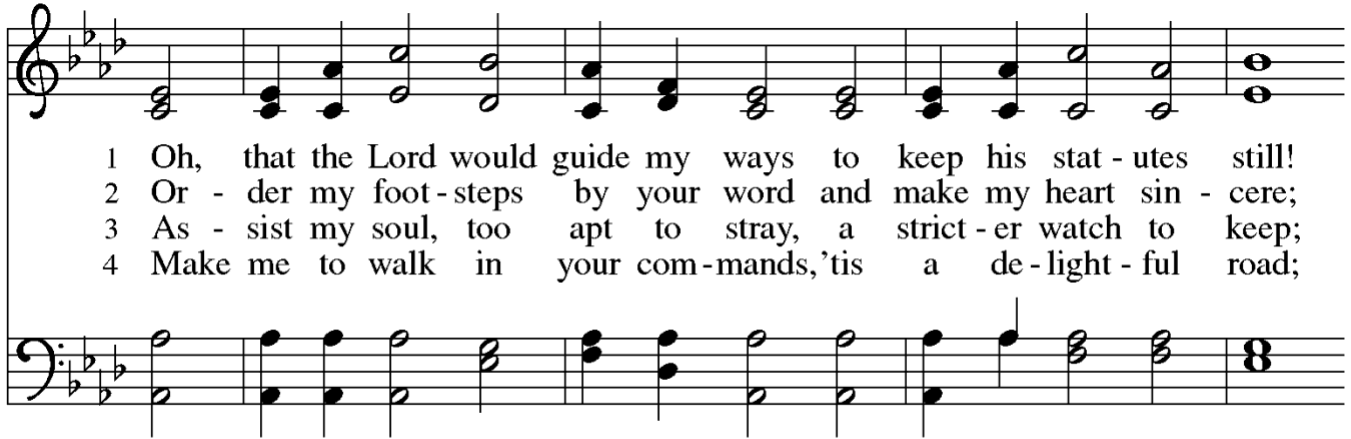
Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**


Postlude:

Postlude on "Foundation" (ELW #796)

Early American tune/arr. Wilbur Held



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
 let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## Calendar for week of March 21 – March 28

(Last updated on 3/17/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, March 21

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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

### Monday, March 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, March 23

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

### Wednesday, March 24

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
9:30 am Education Planning  
Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:00 pm Zoom\* Wednesdays in  
Lent - Created for Community  
Worship Series  
([Join](#) or use ID 837 4022 0666)  
8:00 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

### Thursday, March 25

**BLC Office Closed\*\***

### Friday, March 26

**BLC Office Closed\*\***

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

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

### Saturday, March 27

### Sunday, March 28

#### **Palm/Passion Sunday**

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

**\*\*Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office on Thursday, March 25 & Friday, March 26. Pastor Amy remains available both days 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](mailto: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.**

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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.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth... - Psalm 121*

I love the book of Psalms. Partially because I love poetry; partially because all ranges of emotions are so eloquently expressed. So, this is where I turn when I reach for the Bible. Psalm 121 has always been my favorite. I guess growing up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia had much to do with that. Whenever I was overwhelmed, fearful or alone, all I had to do was look upward at the Blue Ridge Mountains and feel the reassurance that the Lord would protect me. It was as if a protective warm blanket covered me and I knew not be afraid. Even though those mountains are far, far away in distance and time, I still recite this psalm (although the old King James version is my favorite) when I need comfort. I have always received it. I have faced difficulties in my life, like most of us, but I knew that the warm, comforting blanket of the Lord was always wrapped around me to help me through the dark and difficult times.

This is what comforts me through this pandemic. Sure, there have been inconveniences and sadness over missed gatherings, missed hugs and the isolation from others but I am blessed to be retired, I have plenty of food, I have a warm house and I have love from family and friends. I have so many blessings as God truly walks with me and gives me strength.

~ Marcy Adams

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time and forevermore. Amen.**

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