

**Sunday, July 4, 2021 ~
6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba,

between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

Welcome!

We are so glad to have you share in worship at Bethlehem today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the Pastors – they would love to greet you personally!

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship. We have designated space within the sanctuary (underneath the window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd) that is reserved for families who may need additional space for strollers or carriers for children who cannot yet wear masks. We ask you to attend to distancing. If there is a way we can make worship a more hospitable environment for your family, please speak to a pastor or leave a comment through our website (see above).

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask an usher for a loop device.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to share in Christ’s meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our Pastors.) Please see additional notes about the Sacrament in the service portion of the bulletin.

Our Perrin Street entrance is accessible. Please ask for help if you need assistance.

Please silence your cell phones: As a courtesy to others, we ask that you please silence your cell phones during worship.

Prelude: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Caribbean traditional/arr. John Behnke

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are encouraged to participate through your spoken voice in today's liturgy. In lieu of singing hymns and liturgical music, you are encouraged to use the music texts as part of your prayer and reflection throughout the week.

Call to Worship:

In the beginning

before time, before people, before the world began, God was.

Here and now

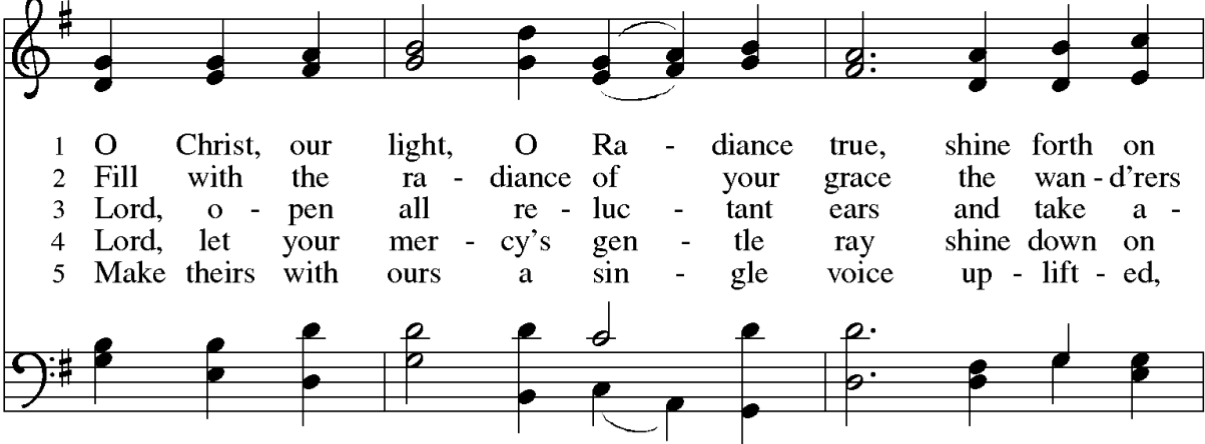
among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, God is.

In the future,

when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God was. God is. God will be!



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
 3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
 4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
 5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
 lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and
 way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
 oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
 ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
 minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.
 press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.
 sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
 praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
 2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
 3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
 4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,
 5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
 these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
 to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
 may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
 what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
 and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
 to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
 and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
 that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
 the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
 de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
 o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
 and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.

Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971

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Music © 1941 Historic Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, NJ, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Response to the Word:

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,

Who follow the teaching of the Lord!

United with believers across space and time, 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.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
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.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Brief silence

We give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Let us pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us praise God for calling, equipping and entrusting us to do God's work in the world. We pray for strength, boldness and wisdom to proclaim the gospel, overcome obstacles and hesitance, engage others in conversations and questions about faith, and serve our neighbors in need. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for individuals and families who are traveling this summer, that God will protect them; that they will be immersed in the wonders of creation and be renewed; that they will meet people who enrich their faith and worldview; and that they will bear the good news of Jesus Christ wherever they go. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us ask God for mercy and forgiveness when weakness and imperfection tangle our daily life; we give thanks that God's enduring mercy and his grace renew our faith, no matter what is happening in our lives. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks that you see us and know our needs. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Tom & Sue, Brian, Katie, Kevin, Bev & Brian, Pat, Sarah (Courtney & Wesley), Phil, Justin & Nicole (Leah & Owen)

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Daniel (son of Susie & Dick) as he anticipates elbow surgery on 7/1
- Iona as she continues to transition to her new home at Wesley Gardens
- Waverly, who continues to face multiple health challenges
- 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

We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers that we offer you either silently or aloud: Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. 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. Those worshipping in person may leave their offerings in the basket in the narthex.



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

Offering of Music:

Behold with Joy

arr. Robert J. Powell

Organist

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, though Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution:

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gracious God, out of your great love, you sent Jesus to be our bread.
Lord, give us this bread always.

By your Spirit, fill us and this meal with your presence,
and strengthen us to be your body in the world. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Invitation to Communion:

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and be fed!

Thanks be to God.

The Communion:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion:

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please contact one of the Pastors.) Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the pastor or communion assistant. You may lower your mask as you receive communion.

Hymn:	<i>Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus</i>	#501
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Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891
Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen

Benediction:

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: The Heavens Rejoice

Beatrice A. Miller

You will be excused during the postlude from the back of the congregation to the front. You are encouraged to share conversation outside the building!

Thank you to Pastor David Gerhardt... *for proclaiming God's Word and providing Sunday morning worship leadership while Pastor Amy is recovering from her recent surgery. Pastor Gerhardt is a retired ELCA Pastor and member of this congregation. We are grateful for his witness among us!*

Pr. Amy is taking scheduled vacation time away June 23 – July 6. While she is away Pastor Hoffman is coordinating pastoral care. In the event of a pastoral care emergency (i.e. death, family or individual crisis), please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line.

Worship TODAY (July 4): *We know that Sunday morning Livestream worship has become an important part of Sunday morning for many of you. We are grateful for a very small and committed group of volunteers who has made this possible since March 2020. Because there are no volunteers available, **there is NO livestream service on Sunday, July 4.** We are holding one in-person service of communion at 10 am only. If you would like to be part of the team that extends our worship beyond our church walls through our Livestream, please contact one of the pastors or Andy Gates.*

Future Worship Schedule – *Beginning on Sunday, July 11, our worship time each week will be on Sunday at 9:30 am (both in-person and livestream). Reservations are no longer required. As we live into this new schedule, we may need to make additional changes. We will communicate changes that we make in the weekly STAR and the other email communication. Look at the [Gathering Again](https://blcfairport.org/gathering-again/) page on our website (<https://blcfairport.org/gathering-again/>) for the latest updates.*

Calendar for July 4 – July 11

Sunday, July 4

No Livestream today!

10:00 am In-person Worship with Communion (no separate communion time outside of worship today)

([Reservation required](#))

No LYO today

Monday, July 5

**BLC Office Closed –
HOLIDAY!**

7:00 pm 100th Anniversary
Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 6

Wednesday, July 7

8:00 am Men's Breakfast at the
Landmark Family Restaurant

9:30 am Bible Study - Hybrid
(In-person or [Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)

9:30 am Education Planning
Meeting

([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)

Thursday, July 8

10:00 am Virtual CMT

([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)

Friday, July 9

Pastor's Sabbath

Saturday, July 10

9:15 am Property Committee

Sunday, July 11

**Confirmation Camp at LCLC
begins!**

9:30 am In-person Worship

Note the new worship time for
both in-person and
livestreamed worship

10:45 am Brainstorming for Fall

7:30 pm LYO in the Courtyard
(last one of the summer!)

Pr. Amy is taking scheduled vacation time away June 23 – July 6. While she is away Pastor Hoffman is coordinating pastoral care. In the event of a pastoral care emergency (i.e. death, family or individual crisis), please contact the church office and leave a message on the Pastoral Care line.

**Fairport District Music Lessons will be held weekly Monday through Thursday from June 28 – July 29.*

Pastor Amy and Campers at Confirmation Camp from July 11 – July 16

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.

Worshipping In-Person: To accommodate our sanctuary capacity limits, we are requiring reservations for worship through July 4. You may [reserve space here](#) (the link is also available on BLC's [Share in Worship page](#)). If you need assistance making a reservation or don't have internet access, please contact the church office.

Zoom Meetings at BLC: The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

Ready to Bear Witness

Where does power come from? The usual answers—family connections, reputation, possessions—are all rejected in this reading from Mark’s gospel. Jesus’ power is not only independent of his family connection—it is hindered by it. While it isn’t entirely clear why the people of Nazareth reject Jesus, the fact that they do may sound familiar to us. How often do we find exactly what we expect when we encounter something new? How open are we, really, to the possibility that God’s power might come from an unexpected corner? The first part of today’s reading suggests that even miracles take two things: both divine power and willing witnesses.

Perhaps Jesus sends his disciples out stripped of their possession precisely so that *they* are ready to witness to God’s power in a new way. They go without any of the usual trappings of security or wealth, with no guarantee that their ministry will be received. In fact, Mark reminds us a few verses later (Mark 6:14-28) just how hostile the world can be to receiving the proclamation of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist will lose his life because of Herod’s resistance to repentance. Nevertheless, Jesus’ teaching continues to astound, and the word continues to spread.

The willingness to bear witness, even when we are not certain of answered prayer or mission success, is a theme that unites all this day’s readings. Even the Psalm, in its simple gaze of faith, invites us to let go of results in favor of relationship. Paul’s sometimes confusing logic about spiritual experiences becomes clear as he sums up God’s word to him: “My grace is sufficient for you” That is a powerful word, which can make almost any experience an opportunity to witness to Christ’s power.

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The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors