



**Sunday, July 11, 2021 ~**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

*When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor (Amos 7:7-15), he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.*

## **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!

**Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed.** By participating in this service, you automatically consent to such recordings. Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and not participants, but there may be times you are visible. Please speak with a pastor following worship if you have concerns.

**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).

**Holy Communion** is important to our life of faith. At this time, we receive communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.

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

**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: Prélude

Louis Vierne

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

## SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

*At home: create a focal point for worship in your home. A green plant calls to mind the color of the Sundays after Pentecost and serves as a reminder of growth and maturing in our life of faith, a frequent focus of the gospel texts during this season.*

*In-person: we encourage your participation in spoken and sung liturgy while remaining masked.*

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 God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
 2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
 4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
 though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
 to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
 through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
 and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
 and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
 that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
 who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
 see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
 may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 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:

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Children's Moment

#### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

##### **Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

The musical score for the Gospel Acclamation is written for four voices, arranged in two pairs. Each pair consists of a soprano part (treble clef) and a bass part (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and repetitive, with the soprano part featuring a long note on the final "ia" of each phrase, and the bass part providing a harmonic accompaniment. The score is divided into two systems, each with two staves.

The gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 6:14-29**

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the three parts of the hymn clearly delineated by the numbered lines.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

### 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 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:

Meditation

Frank Bridge

*Julia Finkbeiner, cello*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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### 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.**

### 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.*

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*Brief silence*

Creator God, thank you for the gifts in our lives. We rejoice in the creation you have given us to enjoy, and the lives of service that we can share. We remember that ALL gifts come from you! And forgive us for the way we do not care for this beautiful world and our fellow humans on this earth. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Dearest Lord Jesus, we ask this day for health and healing for all those we carry in our hearts.

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

- Karen “Casey” (daughter of Victor & Carol) who’s memorial will be at BLC on 7/16

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

- Bill (brother of Bob) who is hospitalized and undergoing testing following a recent fall
- Dave as he anticipates gallbladder surgery on 7/13
- Jim who is hospitalized and undergoing additional testing
- Daniel (son of Susie & Dick) as he recovers from elbow surgery on 7/1
- 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

*For those who serve or work away from home, especially:*

- We pray for those attending Confirmation Camp at LCLC this week: Torstan, Michael, Nathan, Evan, and Pastor Amy.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers we offer now, both silently and aloud.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we remember these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families Linnea & Scott, Carrie & John (Aleiah & Eva), Laura, Barb & Jim, and George & Nancy. And we pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessings on Pastor Abigail Hoffman and Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson, as well as the ELCA Leadership and the leadership here at Bethlehem. Help us to be strong and active with your help. Help us all to do our parts! Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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

**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**

Benediction:

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

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn:	<i>God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens</i>	#771
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*(Music on the following page)*

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:   Sortie-Fanfare

Gustave Tritant

*As you leave the sanctuary, please be attentive to physical distancing.  
You are encouraged to share conversation outside the building!*



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phane hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday!

**Happening today (7/11):**

- 9:30 am In-person Worship (*Note the new worship time for in-person and livestreamed worship*)
- 10:45 am Brainstorming & Listening Session for Fall in the Narthex
- 10:45 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting
- 12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner Ministry (delivery only)
- 7:30 pm LYO in the Courtyard (*last one of the summer!*)

**Save the Date: Sunday, July 25 at 10:45 am**– We will hold a special congregational meeting called by Council President Rick Walker as part of our regularly scheduled Quarterly Dialogue. We will approve amendments to the BLC Constitution, ratification will take place at our Annual Meeting in October 2021. (We are following the constitutionally required process for making these changes.) It is important that you participate so that we have a legal quorum of 10% of our voting members to affirm these changes. Links to the full copy and the summary of changes were shared via email – contact the church office for a copy.

The changes to the Constitution are as follows:

1. Make changes so that our BLC constitution remains in compliance with the ELCA model constitution for congregations
2. Change the Treasurer to an officer position

We will be offering two ways to participate in this congregational meeting:

1. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for the congregational meeting at 10:45 am. No seat reservations are required. This location will allow us to join together with those participating through Zoom conference call.
2. A zoom conference call. You can use the ‘join now’ button on the [BLC Calendar of Events](#) listing ([Join](#) or use ID 823 1525 6119)

## Calendar for July 11 – July 18

(Last updated on 7/7/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, July 11

#### **Confirmation Camp at LCLC begins!**

9:30 am In-person Worship

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

10:45 am Brainstorming for Fall

10:45 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Committee Meeting

12:30 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dinner  
Ministry (delivery only)

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

### Monday, July 12

### Tuesday, July 13

2:00 pm Support Group for  
Caregivers

### Wednesday, July 14

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)

6:00 pm Mission & Social  
Concerns Committee  
([Join](#) or use ID 812 1431 6292)

### Thursday, July 15

7:00 pm BLC on the Go! Quilts  
for Lutheran World Relief

### Friday, July 16

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

1:00 pm Memorial for

Karen "Casey" Carlsen

2:30 pm BLC Dulcimer Group

### Saturday, July 17

### Sunday, July 18

#### **Work camp begins! Baptism in worship**

9:30 am In-person Worship  
with Communion

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

11:00 – 11:30 am - the  
sanctuary will be open  
for Livestream worshipers to  
receive communion

*\*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 11-16*

**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](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.

**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!

**In-Person Meetings at BLC:** To help us schedule and plan for our increased facility use requests, we now require scheduling with this simple form (found at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>) for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. Please complete the form so that we can check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. If you have any questions, or do not hear back within 3 business days of submitting a form, please call the church office to check on the status of your request.

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## Speaking Truth to Power

Few of us want to hear a hard truth, and perhaps fewer of us want to be the ones called to deliver one. Today's texts remind us that bearing God's word is risky business. King Jereboam exiles the prophet Amos for calling him to account. Herod delivers John the baptizer's head on a platter to his wife, Herodias, to fulfill a promise he never should have made. Speaking truth to power can cost us our lives.

Yet this is exactly what God calls us to do. God's prophets are ordinary people called to deliver an extraordinary message. Listen to the praise Paul heaps on the Ephesians, naming them as God's blessed, God's chosen, and God's adopted children (Eph. 1:3-5). It is the kind of pep talk coaches give their players just before sending them back into the game against a seemingly unbeatable team. Like Amos, who freely confesses his humble background and unlikely credentials, we are sent from worship each week to proclaim God's in-breaking reign to all the powers that profess to rule this world.

Still, beneath the apparent victory of power over truth, there is a hidden story bursting through the seams of this tale. Yes, John the Baptist dies, but the integrity of his witness outshines all of Herod's corrupt court intrigues. Herod himself was drawn to John's preaching, and in the end it is Herod's character that seems most tragic.

Like Herod, we are each challenged to really listen to the challenging voice of God in our day and age, and to turn away from the lures and temptations that attempt to seduce us away from fidelity to God. Through us, God speaks words of peace, love, and faithfulness that challenge the world's violence, hatred, and treachery.



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