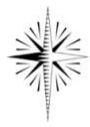




Justified  
by God's grace  
as a gift

ROMANS 3:24

*Sunday, October 31, 2021*  
*Reformation Day*



# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585)

223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

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

## 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! At this time, we ask all worshipers to wear masks in worship.

**Today's service will be recorded and live-streamed.** Our camera operators take care to focus on worship leaders and don't regularly film worshipers. In the movement of the service, glimpses of people may occur. Please speak with a pastor 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. 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 an usher or greeter for help if you need assistance operating the lift.

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

## Today's Worship Team

We all contribute to worship: lifting our voice in prayer and song, bowing our heads in prayer, opening our ears to hear the Word, and extending our hands to receive the Sacrament. Are you willing to serve in one of these additional roles to contribute to worship this week? Put your name on the sign-up in the narthex and grab the corresponding bulletin so we know the role is filled by you!

**Acolyte:** *Lights the altar candles during the prelude and extinguishes altar candles during the final hymn, bringing the light of Christ out into the world! May robe and sit on the chancel or sit within the congregation during worship. All ages who can safely handle fire and reach the candles are welcome to serve!*

**Glass Washer:** *Washes communion glasses either immediately following worship or after Faith Formation for All. Instructions are posted in the sacristy. Many hands make light work so grab a friend to help! (This is also a great opportunity for a household to serve together!)*

**Offering:** *Sit in the congregation and bring the offering trays from the entrance of the sanctuary forward to the altar during the offertory, giving our congregation's gifts to the glory of God! Pair up with a child if you'd like, so they can have a hands-on role in worship!*

**Communion Assistants (2):** *Sit in the congregation and come forward at the time of communion (when the congregation begins to sing "Lamb of God") to serve the wine/grape juice for communion. Must be able to hold a tray steady and speak the words, "Blood of Christ shed for you!"*

**Intercessory Prayer Readers (3):** *From your seat, speak the highlighted petition as part of the intercessory prayers on behalf of the congregation.*

Thank you also to those serving as Assisting Minister, leading the Children's Sermon, providing Special Music, and serving on Altar Guild, Bread Guild, Wine Guild, Hospitality Team (Usher, Greeter and Fellowship Hosts) and Livestream Team! For more information about any of these roles or to sign up to serve, please contact Beth in the church office or one of the Pastors.

*Thank you for your participation and your overflowing grace and encouragement to one another as we work together to bring worship to life each week!*

## Sunday, October 31, 2021 ~ *Reformation Day*

Prelude:

O God Beyond All Praising

Tune: Gustav Holst  
Setting: Diane McAninch

*(The Chancel Bells, Director Raelynn Clare)*

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Forgiveness:

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✠ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

**Amen.**

Gathering Hymn:

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW #504

(Descant by Robert Buckley Farlee)

Stanza 1/ all in unison

ST 2/ all

ST 3/ choir only

ST 4/ all in unison

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.**

Hymn of Praise:

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



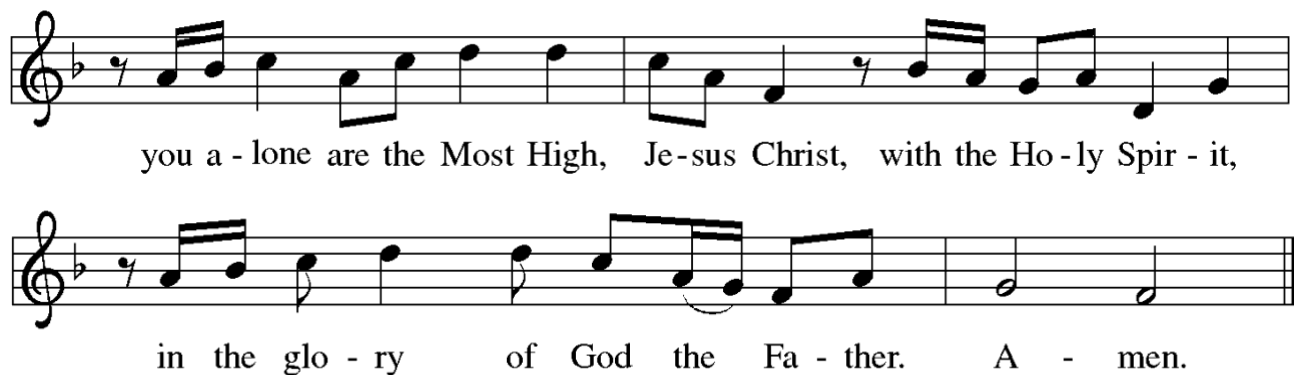
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

### **Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:



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

**Gospel: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

ELW #729

Apostles’ Creed:

With the whole church, let us 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.**

The Prayers of the People:

*Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community; our prayers in this service are offered from among the congregation (voices #1-3).*

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation,

*A brief silence.*

#1 We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

#2 We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

#3 We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. 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: Christopher & Kathryn (Blakely & Cooper), Gretchen & Wes, Alex, Anna, Curtis & Kathleen, David & Sandy, and Linda. 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 ourselves. Hear the prayers that we offer you now.

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- Alex and Rachel who were married on 10/16/21

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

- Jim (father of Hans) as he continues his end-of-life journey on hospice
- Jerry who has been diagnosed with acute Leukemia and remains hospitalized at RGH
- Cori (daughter of Tom & Marcy) as she recovers from surgery on 10/26
- Waverly (friend of Bob & Phyllis) who is recovering from gall bladder surgery on 10/20
- 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

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. Hear us O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL:**

The Peace:

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:

At the Name of Jesus  
Chancel Choir (Director, Jim Jefferis)

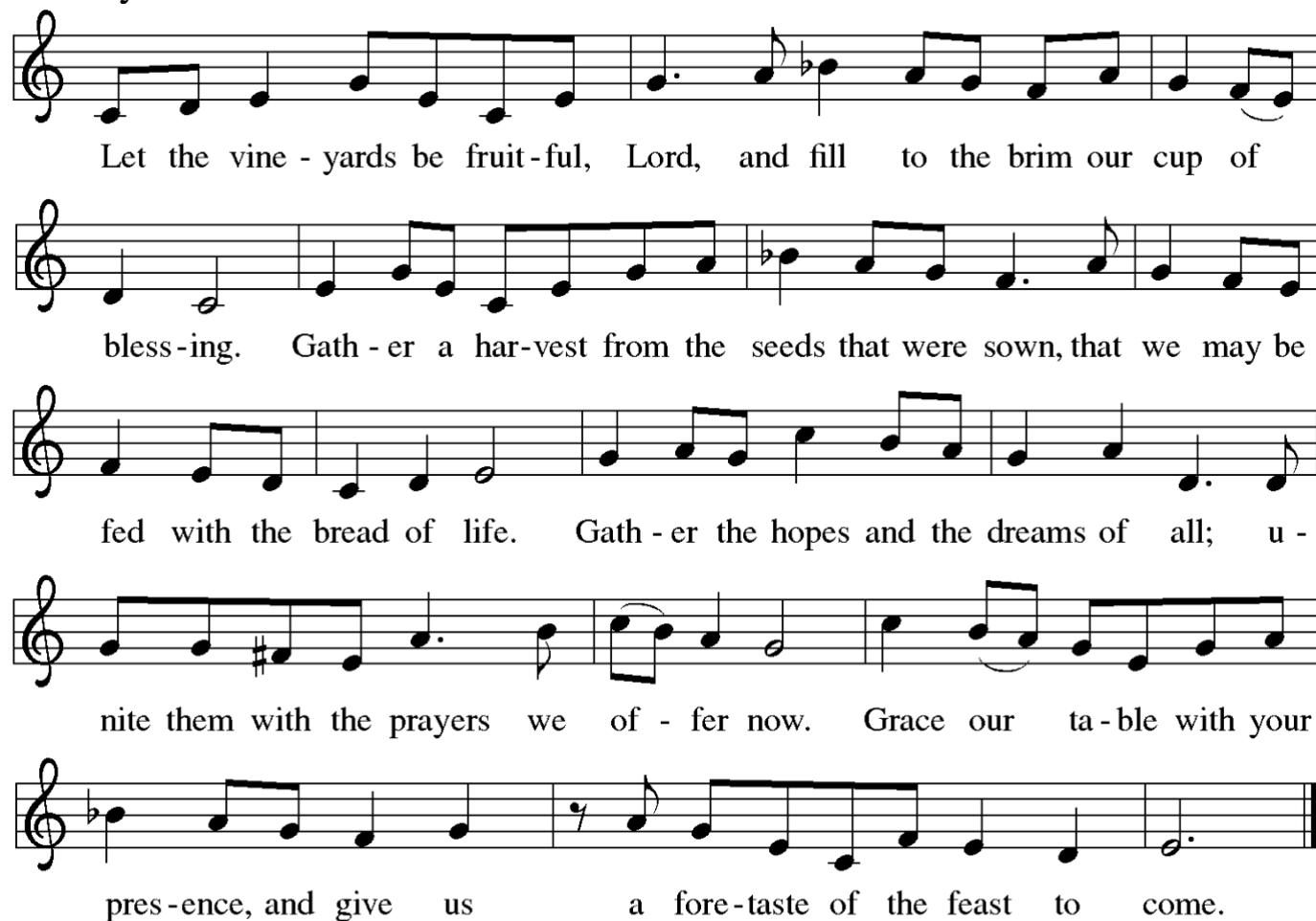
Lloyd Larson

The congregation joins the choir  
at the direction of the conductor

A musical score for a hymn, written in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all!". The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff ends with a semibreve note on the G line. The second staff ends with a semibreve note on the G line. The third staff ends with a semibreve note on the G line.

All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall; bring  
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all; bring  
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all!

## Offertory:



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

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Holy God,

**the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

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:

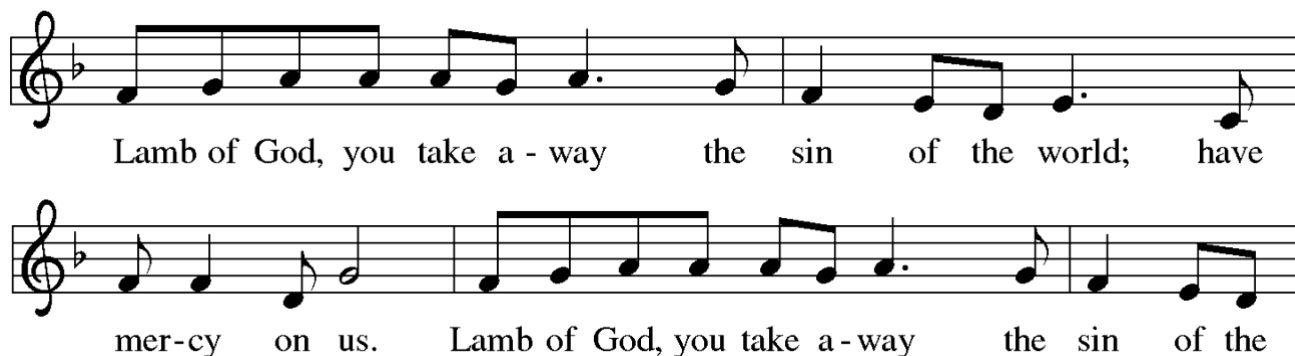
All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**Thanks be to God!**

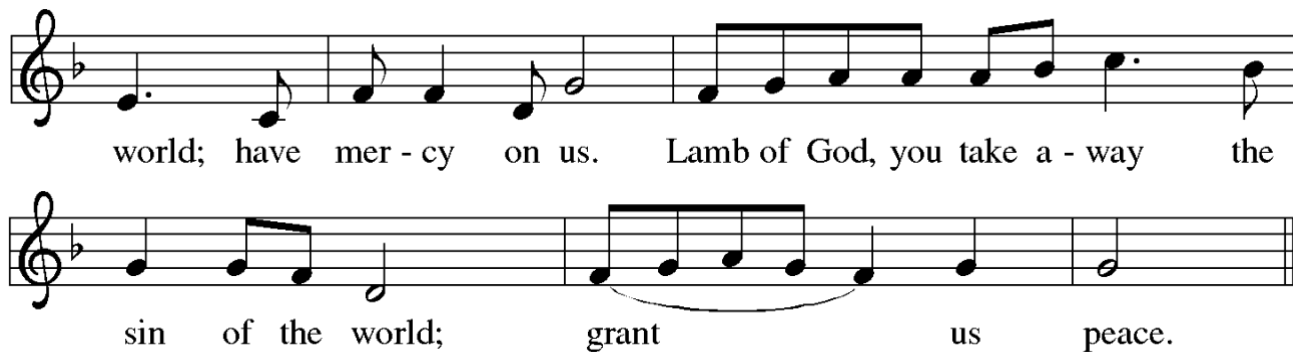
*Distribution of Communion:*

*Please come forward at the direction of the worship leaders. 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. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.*

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



Hymns sung during communion:

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

ELW #750

For by Grace You Have Been Saved

ELW #598

Table Blessing:

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

**Amen**

Post-Communion Canticle:



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## **WE LEAVE TO SERVE:**

Benediction:

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn:	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i>	ELW #654
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Dismissal:

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Toccata on *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*

Setting: Michael Burkhardt

**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! If you would like to learn more about participating in a worship role, please speak to one of the co-pastors or contact the church office!

## **Happening today (10/31):**

- 8:55 am Worship with weekly communion! (Livestream or In-person!)
- 10:00 am Fellowship (outside)
- 10:15 BLC Annual Congregational Meeting  
(in-person or Join via Zoom – ID 831 9366 3824)

Portions of the liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org  
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## Calendar for October 31 – November 7

(Last updated on 10/27/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, 10/31

#### ***Reformation Sunday***

***(wear red!)***

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion (in-person  
and livestream)  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15 Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting  
(in-person or [Join](#) via  
Zoom – ID 831 9366  
3824)

### Monday, 11/1

7:00 pm Peace Corps  
Group Meeting

### Tuesday, 11/2

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019  
Meeting

### Wednesday, 11/3

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)  
5:30 pm Pines of Perinton  
Produce Give Away  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells  
6:15 pm Folk Group  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, 11/4

6:30 pm BLC Officers  
([Join](#) via Zoom –  
ID 814 2532 5342)  
7:00 pm BLC Quilters

### Friday, 11/5

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

2:30 pm Dulcimer Group  
Rehearsal

### Saturday, 11/6

### Sunday, 11/7

#### ***Daylight Savings***

#### ***Time Ends***

#### ***All Saints' Sunday***

8:55 am Worship with  
Communion (in-person  
and livestream)  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15 am Faith  
Formation for All

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo Sessions:** October 31 is the last Sunday for walk-in photos for the 2022 Friends and Family Album. After November 1, photos will be by appointment only. If you have not already done so, be sure to see Bob Stock downstairs before and after worship to have your photo taken. We are hoping to have our Album as complete as possible and would like to have your photo included!

**Church Office Hours:** We continue to hold remote office hours M, W, Th & F from 9 am to 12 noon. Our co-Pastor's schedules vary from week to week. Both are available for scheduled appointments.

**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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## **Not Ashamed**

In many congregations, Reformation Sunday is treated as a sort of “Lutheran heritage” day, a time for singing chorales and remembering the theological reforms of the sixteenth century that gave birth to Lutheranism. In other parishes, a greater focus is placed on the church’s need for continual reform; the church’s history is secondary to an emphasis on the issues and needs of the church today. Both approaches have much to commend them.

But the true center of this day is found in the appointed readings. In Jeremiah we are reminded of a new covenant and the promise that God will forgive, the promise written on our hearts. In Romans Paul brings the full force of the law to bear on our lives: “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). With this reality, how can we have any hope apart from divine grace? Finally, in the gospel reading from John we are reminded that our freedom comes from Christ alone. We are neither bound to the past nor slaves to our anxieties of the present.

Psalm 46 brings all of this together with the powerful proclamation: “God is our refuge and strength.” The God we know in the person of Jesus is the one we can turn to in times of crisis, the one we call upon in times of fear, the one we trust to pour out mercy and forgiveness upon us. This Jesus is our solid foundation. In a world of chaos, confusion, and change there is a constant: the enduring and life-giving grace of God.

On Reformation Sunday—as every Sunday—we remember that we are not ashamed of this good news, this gospel.