



Sunday, June 5, 2022

“Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long and how deep his love is.”

Ephesians 3:17b-18 (NLT)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~

(585) 223-0634 ~ 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.

Worship Leaders at BLC

As Lutheran Christians, **we believe that worship is not a passive experience, watching and listening to the Pastor. Worship is the work of the people – that's what liturgy means!** We all have a job to do in 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. It also takes many people to support the work of worship, both serving publicly and behind-the-scenes. **Each Sunday you're invited to visit the table in the Narthex and put your name next to the role you want and grab the corresponding bulletin.**

Want to learn more about a specific worship role or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket. We will follow up with you.

Sunday, June 5, 2022 ~ Day of Pentecost

Prelude:

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist
(Now We Pray to the Holy Spirit)

Dietrich Buxtehude

Each anniversary Sunday celebration is an opportunity to remember the ways that our worship is rooted in the past, even as we are growing together and sharing in faith today. For the season of Easter, we are returning to a familiar liturgical setting (#1 from the Lutheran Book of Worship published in 1978). This setting continues to shape our faith today and remains as setting 3 in our current ELW hymnal. Today's worship also features a number of hymns that are listed as "BLC Favorites" – those hymns BLC worshipers counted among your favorites when asked in spring of 2020.

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world. Today, we also celebrate Global Companion Sunday, and our unity with the Lutheran churches in Zimbabwe and Zambia. See the bulletin insert for more information!

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Worship:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern or finance
the affairs of humankind,
Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and the sinner,
Jesus Christ is Lord.

Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies and in the quiet corners of our hearts,
Jesus Christ is Lord.

Thanks be to God.
Amen



Gathering Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401

(a favorite hymn of Pr. Hoffman and sung at her ordination)

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:

Refrain: All

Stanzas 1. All

2. Group I – seated on the right side (organ)

3. Group II – seated on the left side (Good Shepherd window)

4. All

Refrain

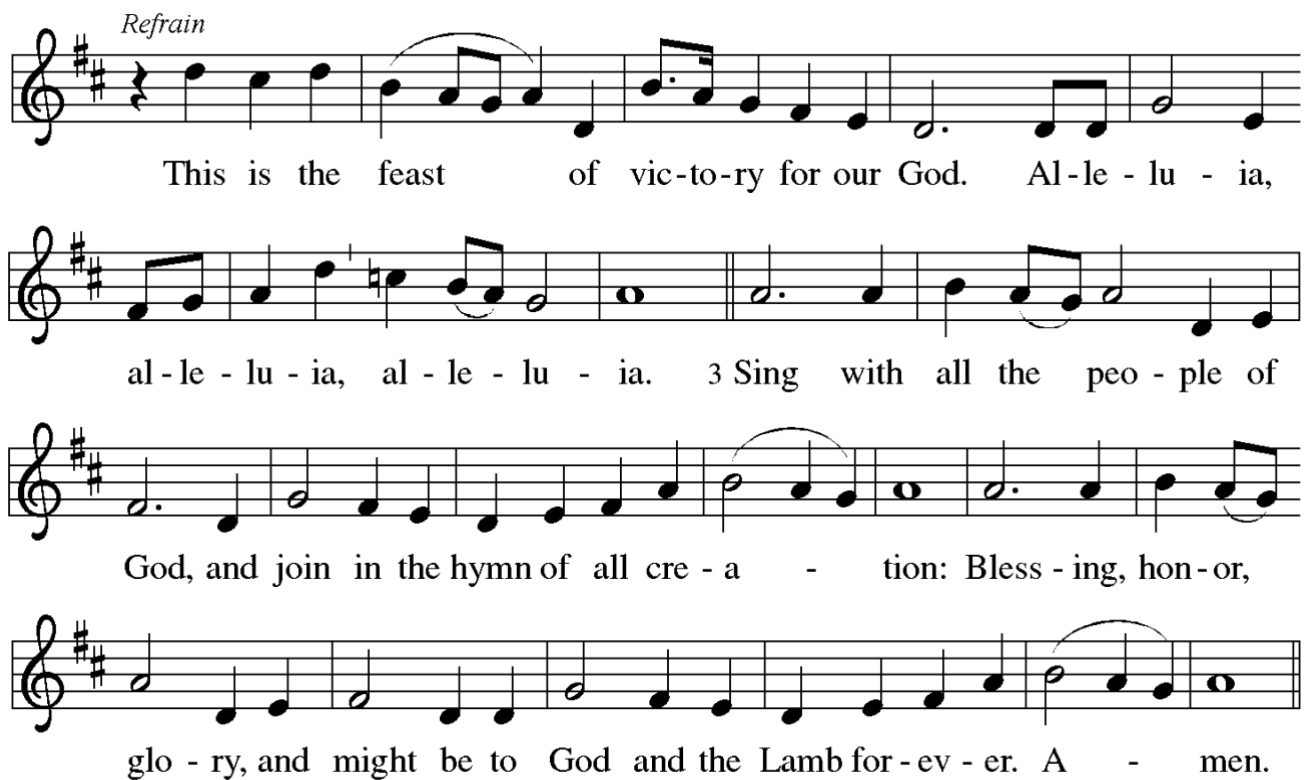
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, 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

Children's Moment

Roger Kolker

Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe read the word this morning. The Pastor of the Bulawayo Easter Parish, Rev. Mbongeni Dube, shares about their congregation: Bulawayo East Parish of the ELCZ is located in the Metropolitan Province of Byo and falls under the Northern Deanery of the Western Dioceses. The Parish is made up of three congregations and one preaching point and these are Bellevue congregation, Waterford congregation, Tshabalala congregation and Ensango preaching point. There are also in the same Province, four sister Parishes, namely, Byo South, Byo West, Byo North and City Center. There is also in the same Province other Denomination of the Christian faith that are propagating the Word. In this large vineyard also is about five Faith Based Organizations whose presence is very noticeable and effective i.e. Muslims, Bahai, Traditional, Hindus and Muddiest.

Here Paul speaks about the mystery of baptism: through the Holy Spirit we are claimed, gathered, and welcomed into Christ's body, the church. And we receive a new name in our adoption: child of God.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, amid signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus' promise coming true.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Though the disciples struggle with Jesus' nature and identity, they receive the promise that they too will be identified with God and God's mission. Though he must leave them now, Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.

⁸Philip said to [Jesus,] “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me

does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. [

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”]

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

Sermon

Bishop Craig Satterlee

Hymn of the Day:



Built on a Rock

ELW 652

sts. 1, 2, 3, 4

(A favorite hymn of Bishop Satterlee)

The Prayers of the People:

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Send your Spirit to places where language is a barrier to justice and mercy for those who seek it. Bless the work of translators, interpreters, and teachers. Promote understanding for the sake of those longing for true freedom and peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

#2 Guide all bishops, pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the gospel. Foster our relationships with partner synods and local ministry partners. We give thanks and pray for the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe (ELCZ) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa). We pray that Christ's love is made known through their work and ministries of our companion synods, and that our visions and actions are Spirit-led. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

#3 As the world around us continues to change, we pray for strength of our intentions and actions to meet these challenges. Support our spirits Lord, toward humble and considerate actions toward our BLC family and community. Help us to focus on you and your intentions. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help Bethlehem grow as a community of hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. We pray especially today for these friends and members of Bethlehem and their families: Linnea & Scott, Carrie & John (Aleiah & Eva), Laura, Barb & Jim, and George & Nancy. We pray especially for the ministries of hospitality in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Breathe new life into those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

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

- Dick (dear friend of Ron) who died on 5/29
- Mary (mother of Jeff) who died on 5/26
- Those who mourn the death of loved ones at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on 5/24

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Heinz (friend of Linda) who has started chemotherapy following a cancer diagnosis
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

Hear also these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for people to offer their prayers

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; 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:
Shepherd of My Heart

words and music:
Mark Baldwin and Dick Tunney

Robert Stock, baritone

Phyllis Stock, piano

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



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.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

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:

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

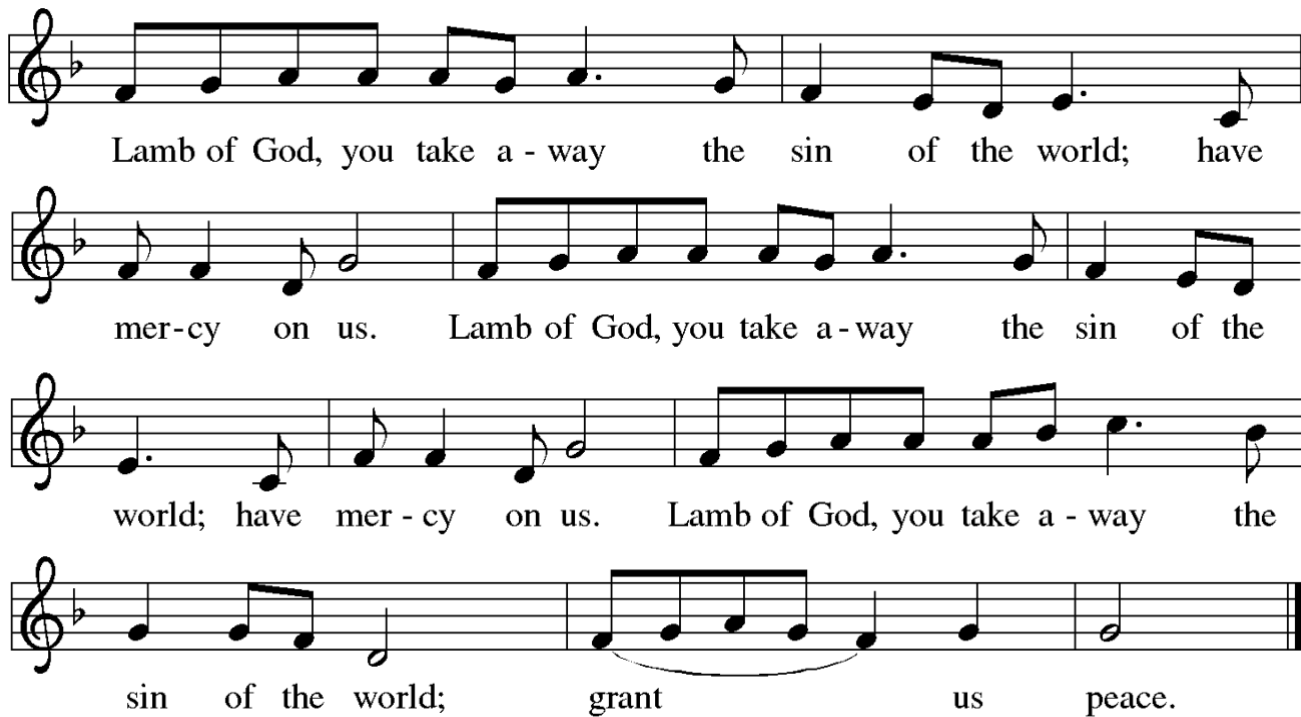
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

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

Hymn sung during communion:
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW 403

Hymn sung during communion:



This Is My Father's World

ELW 824

(A favorite hymn of BLC)

Table Blessing:

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

Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Sending Hymn:

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW 400

Benediction:

May the risen Christ amaze us, open us to receive new life, and send us to share all that we have seen and heard with the blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

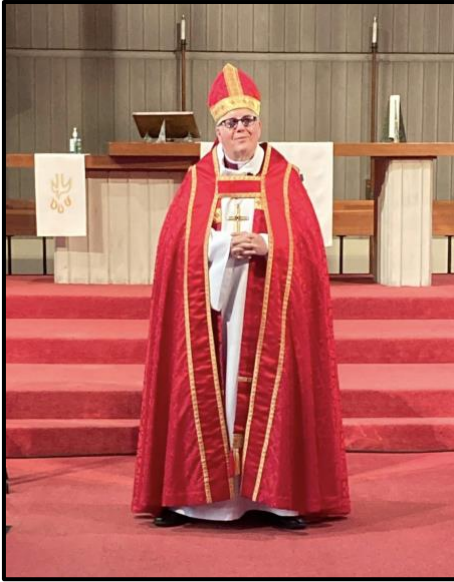
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

IN BABILONE

Dutch folk tune, 18th cent.
setting: Michael Burkhardt



Bishop Craig Allen Satterlee

Bishop Satterlee served from 1987 – 1990, his first call following ordination. He was BLC's first Associate Pastor. He received a B.A. (political science and rhetoric) from the University of Michigan, M.Div. and Master of Sacred Theology (pastoral care) from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, and M.A. and Ph.D. in homiletics and liturgical history from the University of Notre Dame.

Following his time at Bethlehem, he ministered to congregations in Upstate New York and Michigan before teaching at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). While a seminary professor, Bishop Satterlee served as interim pastor in Chicago area congregations. Firmly grounded in parish ministry, Bishop Satterlee names as a priority of his ministry preaching and presiding in congregations of the synod as a tangible expression of the unity of the church.

He served as the Axel Jacob and Gerda Maria (Swanson) Carlson Professor of Homiletics at the LSTC for thirteen years, Dean of the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program for eleven years, and adjunct professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame for nine. Bishop Satterlee is also adjunct professor at LSTC and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, located on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. In May 2013, he was elected bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA and installed in September of that year, a position in which he continues to serve.

Bishop Satterlee is the author of eight books and frequently contributes to both scholarly and ecclesiastical journals. His scholarly interests include the relationship of preaching and areas of congregational life and mission, including liturgy, spirituality, stewardship, mission, and leadership.

Bishop Satterlee is legally blind and generally leads worship from memory. Memorizing is a prayerful and time-consuming discipline for him. He is increasingly inviting the assembly to put their bulletins down to watch and listen. In fact, since he has a reservoir of liturgical texts in his head and at his disposal, he has been known to spontaneously yet intentionally change the liturgy. Because of his loss of sight, he has a passion for ministry with persons with disabilities and a unique perspective on the Christian faith, church, and world.

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.

Today we are very pleased to hear the Word proclaimed by Bishop Craig Satterlee. We are grateful for his (virtual!) participation in our 100th Anniversary celebration, as we remember the many ways we are connected BLC and to each other. Read more about Bishop Satterlee in today's bulletin.

Happening today (6/5):

100th Anniversary Sunday
Pentecost Sunday
Companion Synod Sunday

- 8:55 am Worship with Communion and video message from guest: Bishop Craig Satterlee (in-person and livestream)
- 10:15 am Legacy Presentation with Ryan Ebner (in-person and livestream)

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful: Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923.

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**The red flowers that signify Pentecost and decorate the Sanctuary
were given to God's glory by the following:**

Cathy Anderson in memory of Paula Hitchings

*Bill & Gunnar Antell in honor of the 100th anniversary of the church
and in memory of Georgene Antell, and
both my parents and Gunnar's Grandparents Marg & Bob Antell*

Sherry & Jim Cook in honor of our family

Sandy Goehle in honor of my family

Jeff & Ruth Hedin in honor of our family

Kathy Moragne to the glory of God and honoring our confirmands

John Schmeelk in honor of BLC staff

Beth Schoenfeld in honor of BLC volunteers

Rory & Fred Schoenfeld in honor of our parents

Ros & Larry Siegel in honor of David and Leann and Tavis

*Jerry & Toni Thompson in honor of our parents Gerald and Vera Thompson
and Edward and Harriet Glady*

Sue Towsley in memory of Jack and Genia Kellow

*Maribeth Wilke in memory of Mitch Wilke, Edward Hitchings Sr, Paula Hitchings,
and Edward Hitchings Jr.*

Dwight & Jan Zotter in memory of family

Calendar for June 5 – June 12

(Last updated on 6/1/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 6/5

100th Anniversary Sunday

Pentecost Sunday

Companion Synod Sunday

Synod Assembly

(6/5 & 6/6)

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with video
message from guest:
Bishop Craig Satterlee
(in- person and
livestream)
10:15 am Legacy
Presentation with Ryan
Ebner

Monday, 6/6

Tuesday, 6/7

2:00 pm Support Group for
Caregivers

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

6:30 pm Re-Opening Team
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 896 1838 7934)

Wednesday, 6/8

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

Thursday, 6/9

6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop
Meeting

Friday, 6/10

Pastor's Sabbath

Saturday, 6/11

9:00 am BLC Planting Day

9:15 am Property
Committee

Sunday, 6/12

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guest:
Rev. Julie Bergdahl
(in- person and
livestream)

10:15 am 100th
Anniversary Q&A and
conversation with guest
(in-person
and livestream)
11:45 am 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

Pastor Amy will be on vacation May 30 – June 11.

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M - 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: Submit details at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/> for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. This allows us to check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. Please contact the church office to confirm or with any questions following your submission.

What Does This Mean?

“What does this mean?” the devout ask (Acts 2:12). For those gathered in that house, the event meant the birth of sudden, surprising, unmerited new life. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they burst from the house with a story to share about God’s wonders. But what does this event of Pentecost mean for us, today, many centuries later? God is at work here, now, in the world. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, God is walking alongside as friend, truth-teller, comforter, and guide.

The writer of John’s gospel speaks of it in this way: the Advocate, the one whom the Father will send, will teach the disciples everything they need to know. God is not yet finished revealing who God is, and the disciples are not yet finished learning. Through the Spirit of truth, the disciples will do the work of Jesus, and his life will continue through them.

In holy baptism, the Spirit rests on the heads of young and old alike. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the baptized have an old, old story to tell of Jesus and his love—and a new, new story of how God is birthing sudden, surprising, and unmerited new life all around us, every day. God is at work, here, now in the world through the lives of everyday Christians. Jesus’ work continues through the lives of all the baptized. We discover meaning from this Pentecost story today, not only for our own sake but for the sake of the world that so hungers for this life.