



Sunday, July 10, 2022
5th Sunday after Pentecost



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!

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.

Leading worship today...Visit the table in the Narthex and put your name next to the role you will fill in today's worship and pick up the corresponding bulletin. Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship 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.

Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship – including worship leadership roles like acolyting and assisting with communion! 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: All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Those who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you or your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with one of our pastors.

Hearing assistance: Our sound system is equipped with personal hearing loop devices. Please ask a member of the Hospitality Team for a loop device.

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

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.

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Prelude:

Voluntary in A

Maurice Greene

Susan DePasquale, guest organist

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

Oh Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

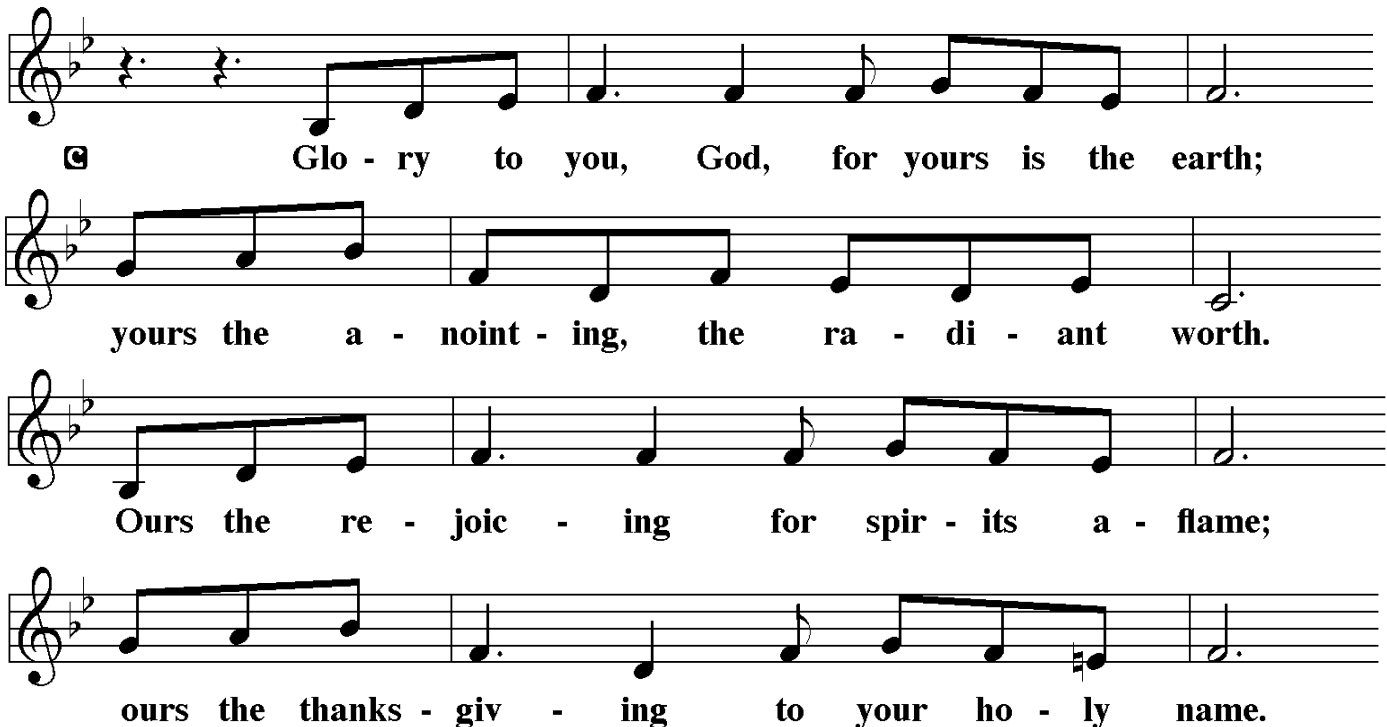
ELW 658

GREETING

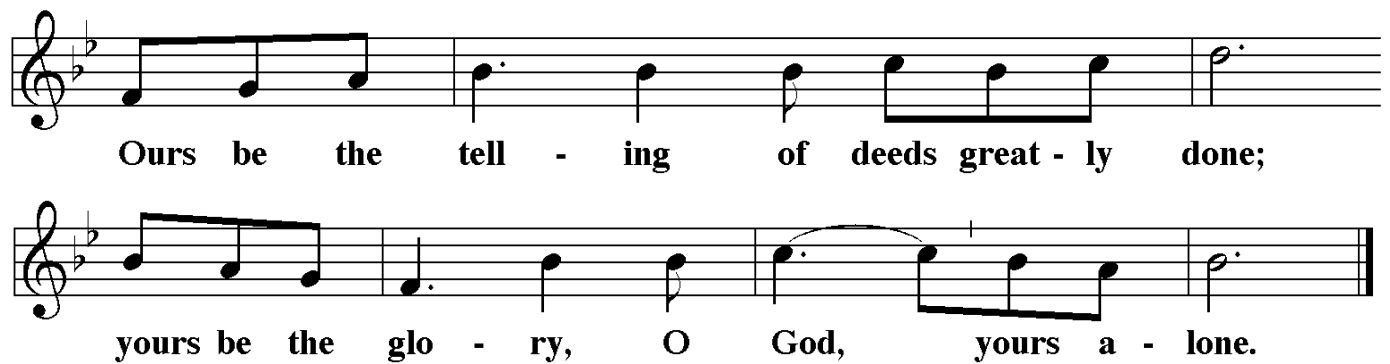
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

⁹The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

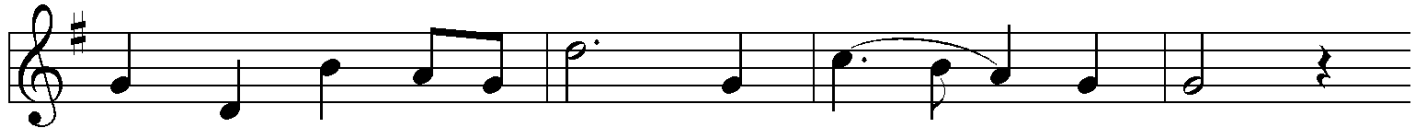
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



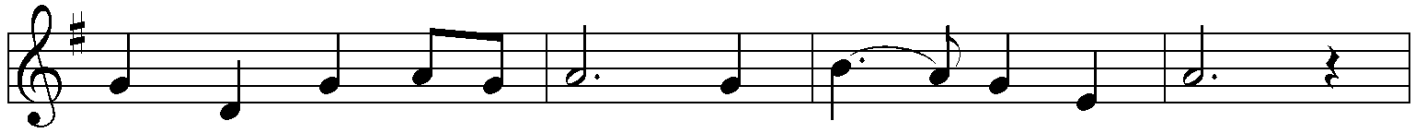
Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he

came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

ELW 684

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
and he will come again 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**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor.

If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

<p><i>**Please remain standing.**</i></p>

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks that you continue to prosper the ministry of this community of faith. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: David and Lisa; Ed and Sharon; Jimmy and Laura, Paige, Ryan; Jeff and Ruth; and Pam. We pray also for the prospering of our companion synods in Zimbabwe and Zambia and our twinned parish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness.

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

- Anthony, grandfather of Eric (Liana's fiancé), who died on 6/24

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Lee, who remains in hospice care
- Kathy, who is receiving treatment for macular degeneration
- Nick, friend of Liana who is under observation in the hospital following surgery
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

We also remember those we lift before you, silently and aloud...

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

OFFERING

We give to God all that God has first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions. If you would like to support the ministry of BLC with your offering, scan the QR code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page through Tithe.ly. Those worshipping in person may leave their offering in the basket in the narthex.



OFFERING OF MUSIC

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA
William Moore
arr. Daniel J. Fortune

Richard DePasquale, trumpet

Susan DePasquale, piano

OFFERTORY

In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day to
serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way. O__
God, who gave your - self to__ us in Je - sus Christ your Son, teach
us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we pray as you 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

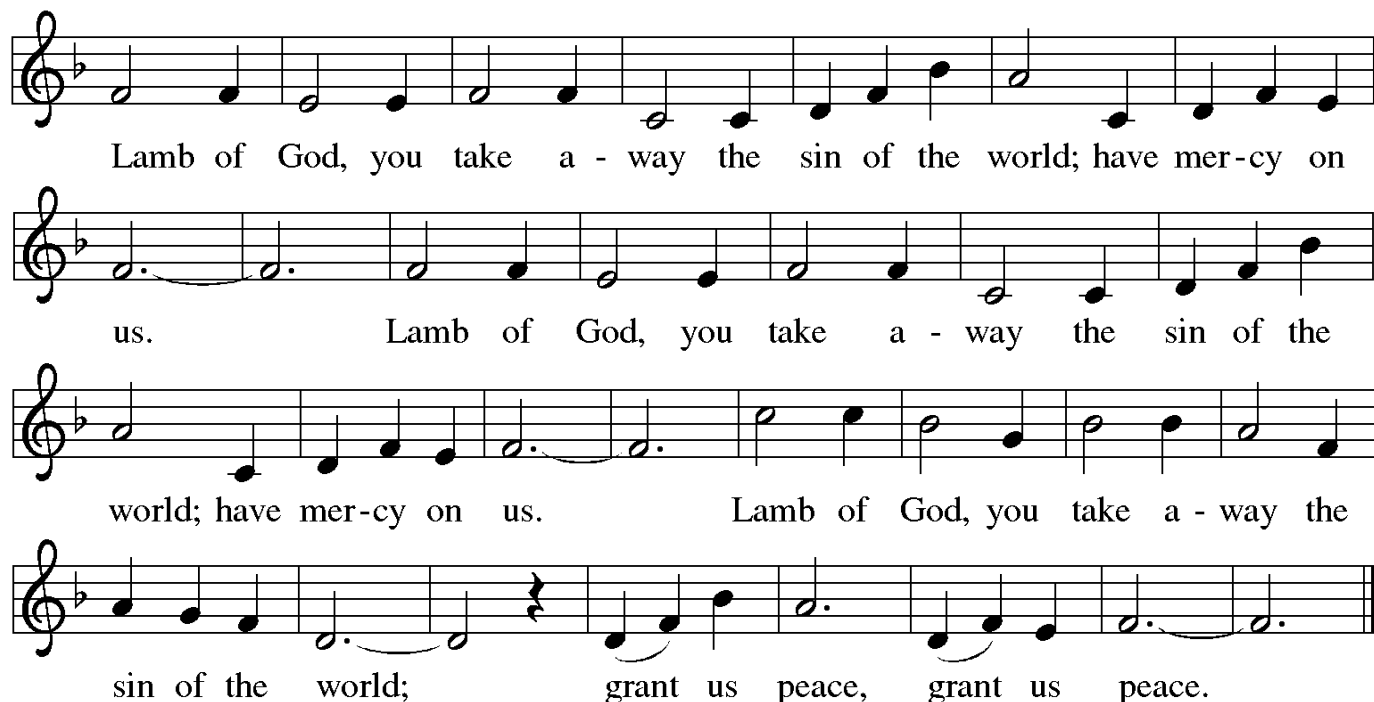
In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Those who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. The bread is gluten-free. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

ELW 721

When the Poor Ones

ELW 725

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

LEAVING TO SERVE

SENDING HYMN

Soli Deo Gloria

ELW 878
sts. 1, 2, 4, 5

BENEDICTION

The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Giga, Opus 948

Carson Cooman

Thank you!

We give thanks for Susie DePasquale who serves as our guest musician this morning!

Thank you *to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Fill out the survey on the table in the narthex and place it in the basket or speak with a pastor.*

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Thank you for your patience during this transition without office support staff. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday-Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585)223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org

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Who Are You?

Who do you identify with in the parable? This is part of what makes parables so powerful. Some days we read the story through the eyes of the priest or the Levite. Some days we feel like the Samaritan. And then there are those days when we are the man in the ditch. Some days you are the windshield and some days you are the bug, as the saying goes.

It is easy to miss the shocking nature of this parable if we start to think that this story only teaches us to imitate the Samaritan. The parable says so much more about God, our relationship to God, and the lengths to which God will go to reach out to us.

Through the image of the Samaritan, Jesus lifts up a surprising rescuer as an image of the God who relentlessly cares for those in need. Could it be that we are meant to identify not with the Samaritan or even the lawyer to whom Jesus speaks the parable, but rather with the man who is hopeless and left for dead? Could it be that Christ is the good Samaritan who embraces us with the tender compassion of God?

All of the sudden the parable is turned on its head. Jesus is not just giving us a comfortable morality tale reminding us to be nice, helpful, generous people. Instead Jesus is proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. God's grace comes to us through the cross. God's grace comes to us even—and especially—when we are at our worst, when we struggle in the depths and cry out for help. Even when we cannot or will not cry out, mercy and grace come into our lives through Jesus. So whether you are on the road or in the ditch, Jesus even now is coming for you.