

Martha  
welcomed  
Jesus into  
her home

LUKE 10:38



*Sunday, July 17, 2022*  
*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*



# 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  
Raelynn Clare, Music Director  
Dr. Jim Jefferis, Chancel Choir Director

**Sunday, July 17, 2022 ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Prelude:

Partita on *ROYAL OAK*

setting by Robert W. Jones

*Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and so it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.*

## GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN	Dearest Jesus, at Your Word	ELW 520
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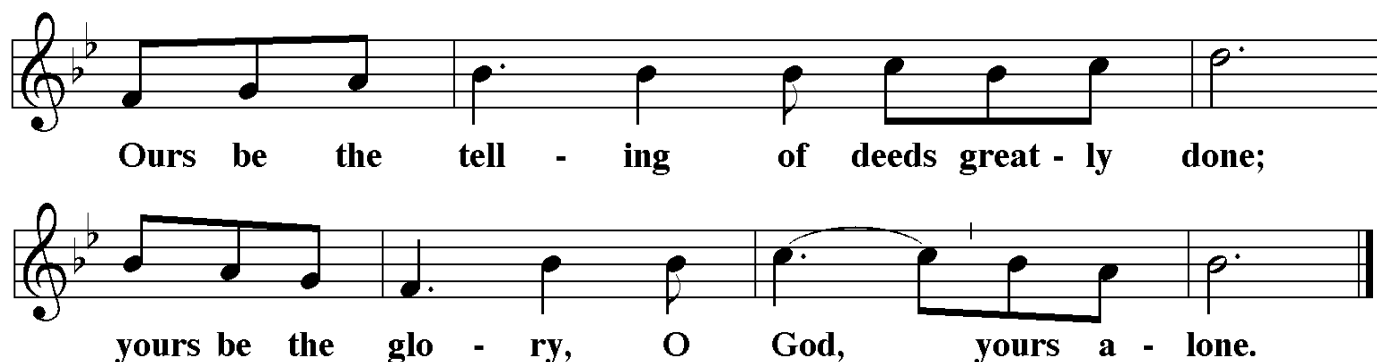
## GREETING

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. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10a</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

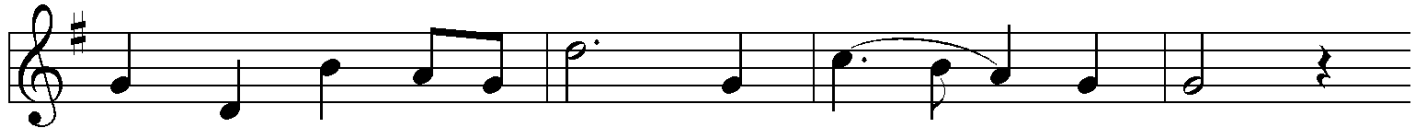
The word of the Lord.

**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 10:38-42

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

<sup>38</sup>Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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>
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#### 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 Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire our Bethlehem community to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you make all things new. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Connie & Erich, Rick & Sharon, Kevin & Kristina (Alison, Elizabeth, Josie, Marilyn), Olaf, Jim & Renee Herrmann (Katy), Joshua, and Robert. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

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

- Barbara, aunt of Ruth, who is having knee replacement surgery on 7/11
- Chuck and his wife Kim, friends of Bob and Phyllis, Chuck has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- Carol, sister of Kathy, who anticipates surgery on her achilles tendon
- Joyce, friend of Chris, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and will soon begin treatment
- Lee, who remains in hospice care
- 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

*Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting [blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry).*

### OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Gift of Each Day

words and music by  
John Rutter

Sarah Morrisette, soprano

Dave Wideman, baritone

### 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

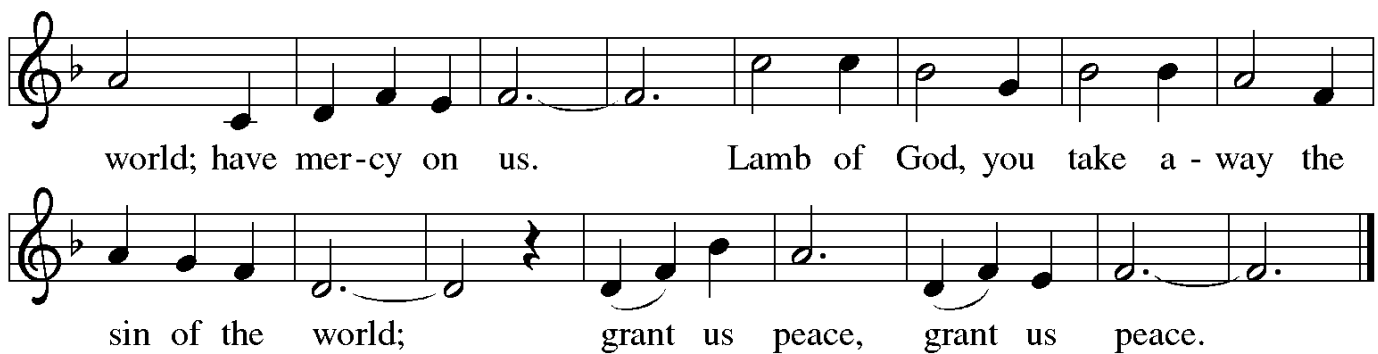
*Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.*

## 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



#### COMMUNION HYMNS

Break Now the Bread of Life

ELW 515

Lord, Be Glorified

ELW 744

#### 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

Praise the Lord! O Heavens

ELW 823

#### 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

La Réjouissance, HWV 351

(The Rejoicing)

George Frideric Handel

transcr. and arr. by

Dan Miller

**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.*

**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.

**What's happening at BLC this week?** Visit the Calendar of Events at [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org). Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or 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](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org)

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## Unexpected and Intentional Distraction

As digital tablets and smart phones keep us busy and on the go, today's gospel reminds us of a struggle: when are we to set aside our busy calendars, duties, and to-do lists and simply rest in God's presence, listening to what God has to say to us? This tension mounts in our gospel as Jesus addresses Martha's busyness, worry, and distraction, juxtaposed with Mary's contemplation, focus, and desire to sit at the feet of the great teacher. But is "quietly sitting" even possible in our age of distractions? Perhaps we can find helpful advice in our first reading, as Abraham rests in the heat of the day. In that time of rest, he was ready to receive the three guests who came bearing the news that Sarah would have a son, fulfilling God's promise given years earlier. With the heat keeping him from moving on to other things, the guests had Abraham's undivided attention. These readings remind us how crucial it is to set aside time to spend with God. We might even wonder what sort of things Jesus was saying to Mary. Were they profound words, akin to the "mystery" the author of Colossians addresses in the epistle? Jesus was the person in whom God was pleased to dwell, that same one who is "the hope of glory."