

Lord, teach us to pray

LUKE 11:1



Sunday, July 24, 2022
7th Sunday after Pentecost



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ 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 24, 2022 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT
setting by Paul Manz

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN	Baptized in Water	ELW 456
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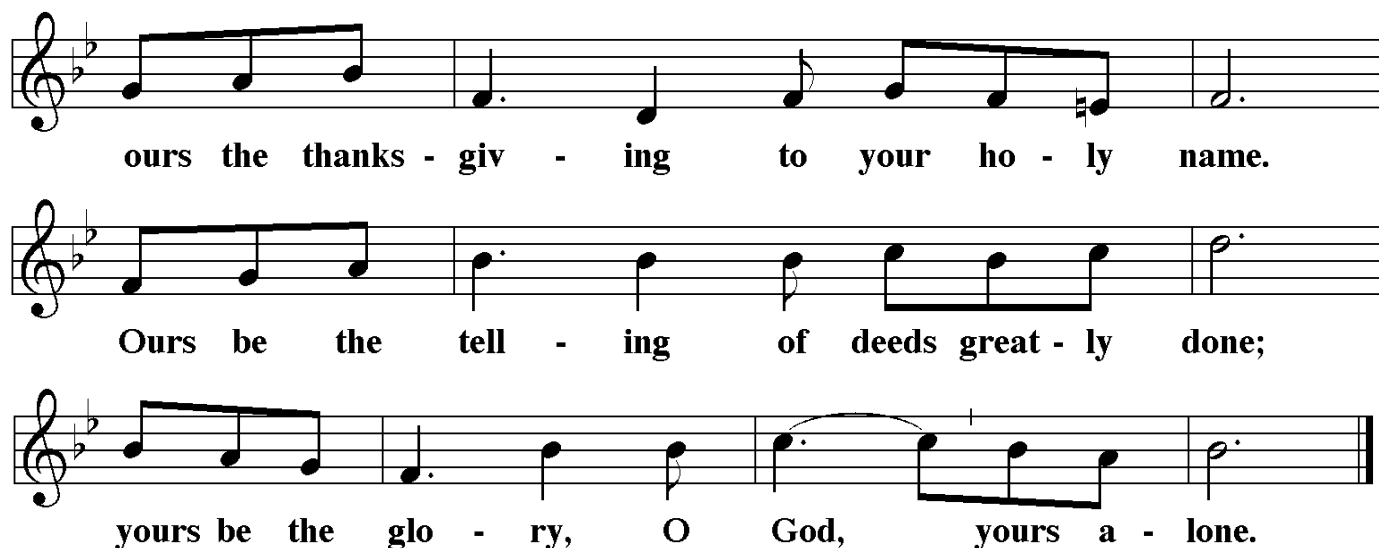
GREETING

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;



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

READING: Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

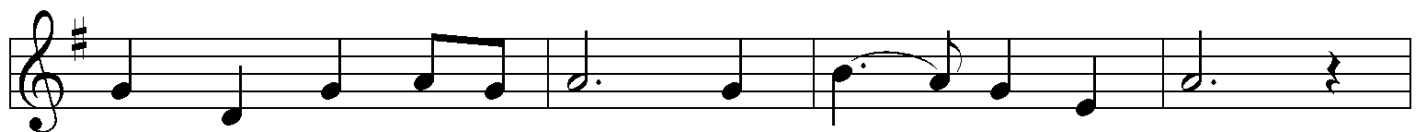
²⁰Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the

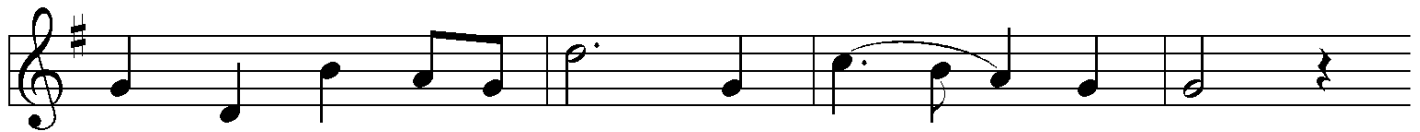
whole place for their sake.”²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.”²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.”³⁰ Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”³² Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV 783

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.*

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

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 Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name. 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: Charlyne & David, Christine & Mike (Peter, Sam), Sydney, Marianne & Mark, Bill & Rochelle, and Billy. 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 lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- the safe delivery and birth of Henderson Matthew, son of Laura and grandson of Mark and Cathy

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

- James (former member) who died July 13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Lavonne, mother of Jeff who is hospitalized with heart and lung problems
- Barbara, aunt of Ruth, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Chuck and his wife Kim, friends of Bob and Phyllis. Chuck has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer
- Carol, sister of Kathy, who is recovering from 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.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Call
from *Five Mystical Songs*

words by George Herbert
music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Hans Walter-Peterson, tenor

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

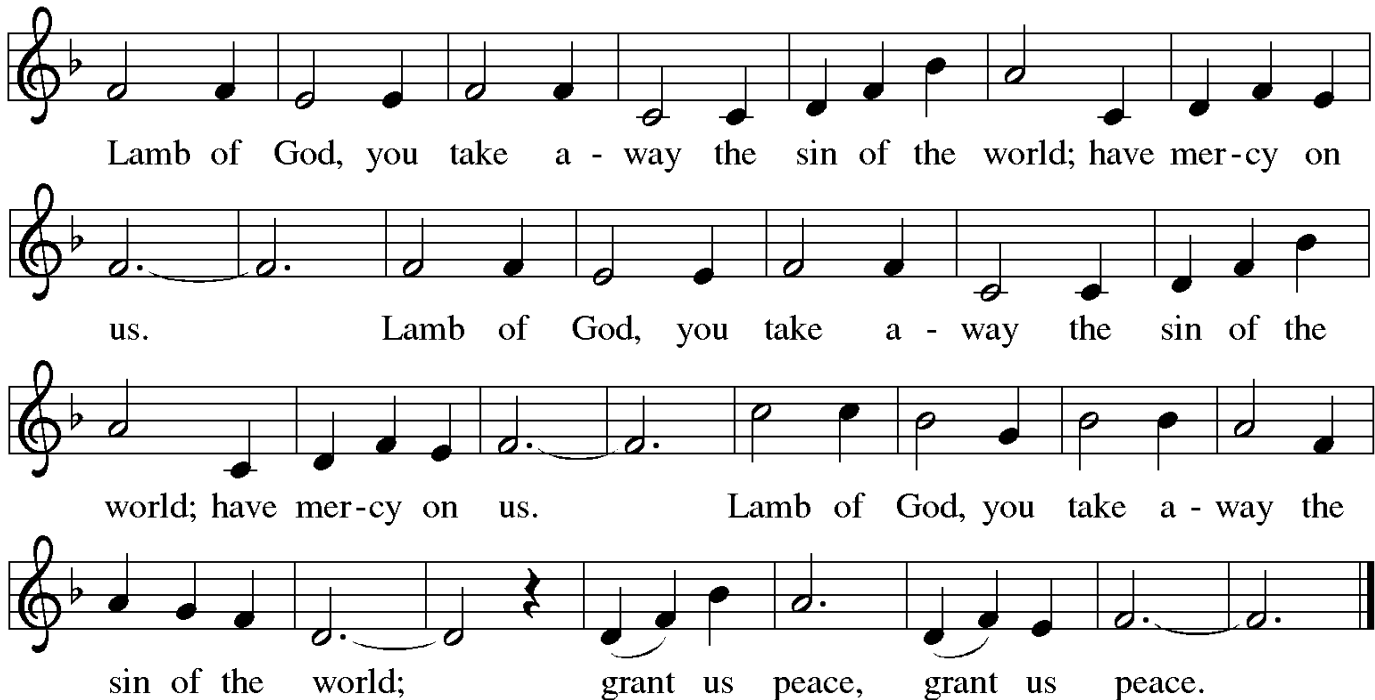
In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

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
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

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 473

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

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

Postlude on *SICILIAN MARINERS*

setting by Alfred V. Fedak

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. 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 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 or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org

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Our Persistent, Negotiating Prayer Life

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern. The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they *te//* him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church catholic. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive what we ask for. And God wants to give to those who ask God. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened by the Lord's supper, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?