

YOU  
CANNOT  
SERVE  
GOD AND  
WEALTH

LUKE 16:13



*Sunday, September 18, 2022*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*





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

## Sunday, September 18, 2022 ~ 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

Aus meines Herzens Grunde  
(Out of My Innermost Heart)

Johann Christoph Bach

Chaconne

Wilber Held

*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.*

### **GATHERING**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen**

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

*Silence for reflection*

Holy and gracious God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed - but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask for forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace. Amen**

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven.  
**Amen**

## GREETING

Grace and peace to you from God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Let Us Pray for One Another

David Hyrum Smith  
arr. Tull Glazener and Pam Bowman

BLC Dulcimers

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS

*All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in the room across the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

### READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is

right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s

debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

*assisted by BLC Percussion Ensemble*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Giver of all, at the start of a new school year, we pray for youth and adults who are active in sports, arts, and drama and we give thanks for the ways these activities enrich our community life. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Peter, Marguerite, Nick & Sharon, Karl, and Margaret & Rolf. 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 Leila Mackenzie, the daughter of Tim and Laura and granddaughter of Mike and Sandy

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

- Frank Cordaro, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Brian Burke, who is recovering following his recent hospitalization
- 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.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING GOD'S MEAL**

### **THE PEACE**

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.*

### **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**

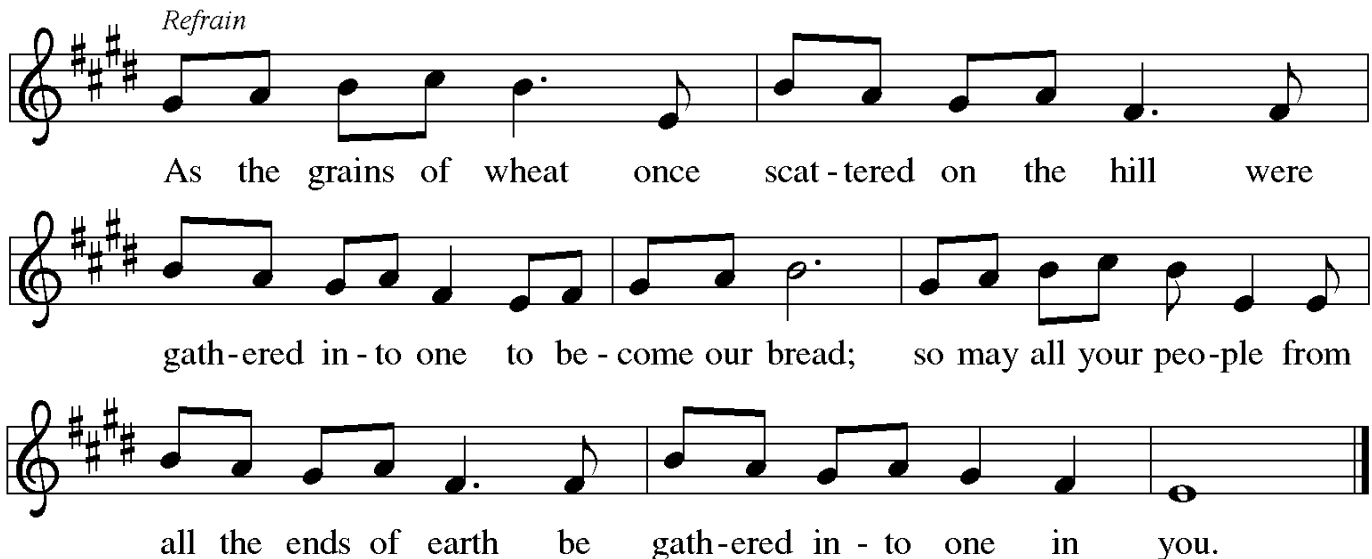
**Assurance**

Phoebe P. Knapp and J. S. Bach  
arr. John Ness Beck

The Chancel Choir

### **OFFERTORY**

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray. God of goodness and growth,  
**all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen**

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Siblings in Christ, we gather here at God's table of mercy.  
**At this table, Christ welcomes sinners and eats with us!**  
When we are lost,  
**Christ searches for us.**  
When we are hungry,  
**Christ feeds us.**  
When we are lonely,  
**Christ comes to be our friend.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord Jesus, you are resurrection and life.  
**We give thanks that at your table you fill us with good things and feed us from your abundance.**  
Pour out your Spirit on us and this feast of love.  
**Strengthen us to serve you in all we do.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray:  
**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

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.  
**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 HYMN  
In This Feast of Love

ACS 962

Choir: stanza 1

All: sts. 2, 3

In This Feast of Love

*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* *täs - sä*  
1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

*pöy - däs - sä* *syn - ti - sil - le*  
feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

*it - se - si an - nat,* *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*  
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ☩ grant you peace.

**Amen**

SENDING HYMN	Rise Up, O Saints of God!	ELW 669
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Pasticcio

Jean Langlais

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Director of Music and Organist

Dr. Jim Jefferis, Director of The Chancel Choir

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

**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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In This Feast of Love

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress



## Love or Money?

A rich landowner tells his unsatisfactory manager he's going to fire him. We don't know how long the employee had to clear his desk, but apparently it was long enough to win friends and influence the people who had accounts with his boss. The manager called them in and reduced their debt. When the boss heard about it, for some reason he didn't call his lawyer but sat back and laughed in admiration.

How could Jesus tell a story where the main character is a crook? Why did the boss commend the bad manager? What is Jesus trying to tell us? This parable can be difficult for us to interpret. One possibility: Dr. Audrey West, in the 2004 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study, described a parable as a story about something ordinary, with a surprise or twist that leads us to experience reality in a new way, so that it may even transform our daily living. The surprise in this parable is not the manager's self-serving behavior, as we've seen for ourselves in some corporate accounting scandals in the news. The surprise is the boss showing mercy.

Does this boss remind you of someone? Maybe the landowner in another parable who pays a full day's wage to farm workers who spent barely one hour in the vineyard? The father running out to welcome a shamed and destitute, long-lost son? Or someone who's been in the news lately? Is there any way that he reminds you of God?

In God's economy, people matter more than profits. The prophet (first reading), the psalmist, and Jesus, telling the parable, agree on this. The epistle writer adds a prayer for "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" for everyone, boss and beggar alike.