



At his gate lay
a poor man
named Lazarus

LUKE 16:20

Sunday, September 25, 2022
16th 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

Sunday, September 25, 2022 ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

We Place upon Your Table, Lord

DISTRESS
setting, Edwin T. Childs

Allein Gott in der höh sey her
(All Glory Be to God on High)

G. P. Telemann

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

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

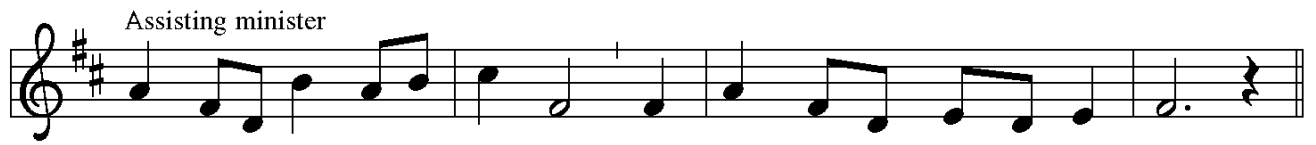
GREETING

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. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



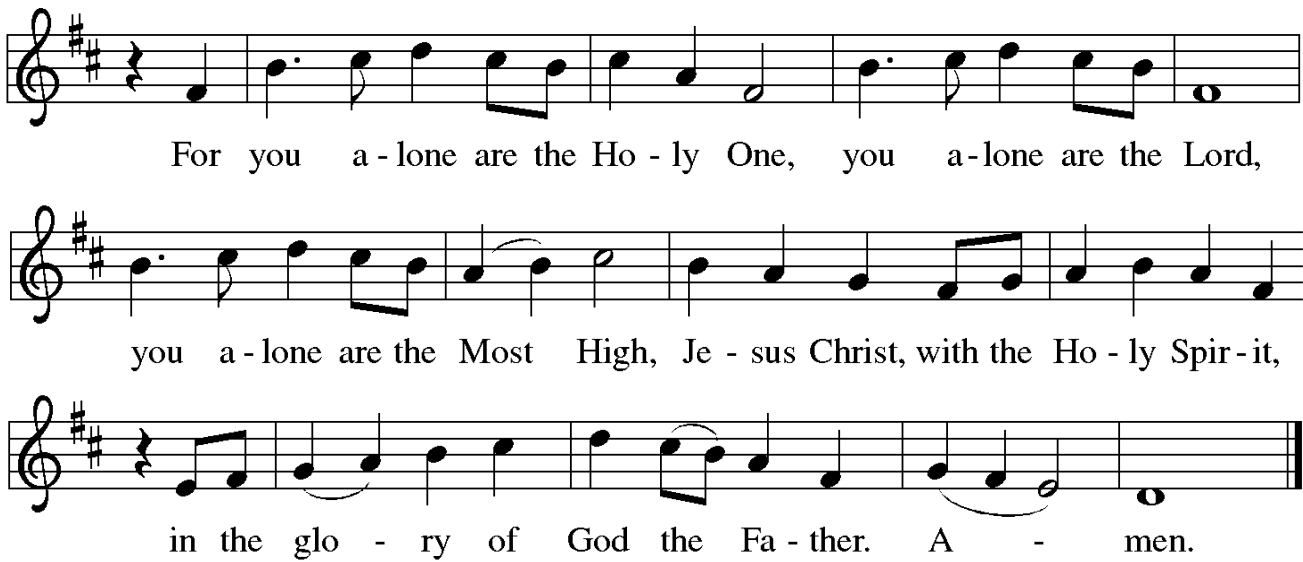
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

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: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

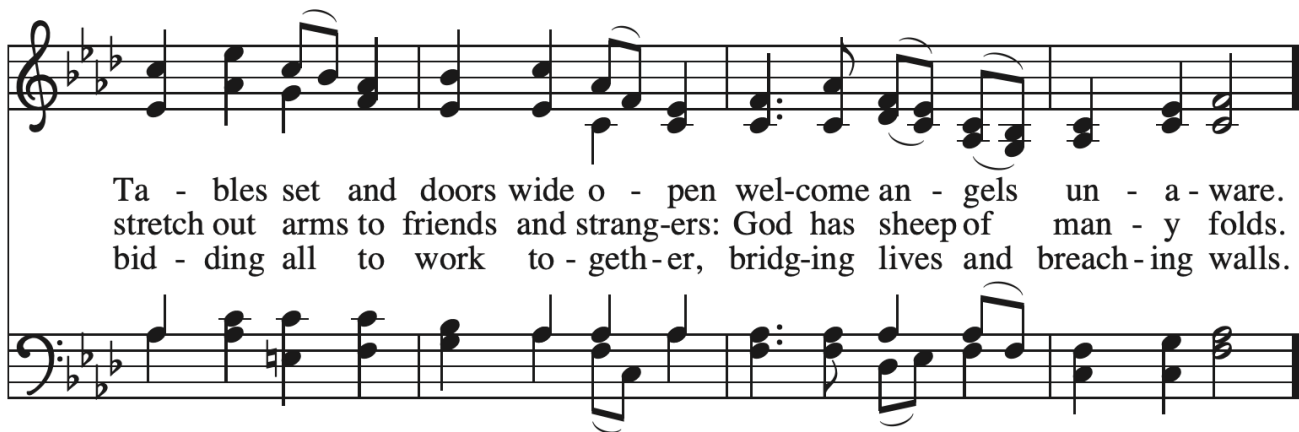
- ^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
 and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
 and lounge on their couches,
 and eat lambs from the flock,
 and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
 and like David improvise on instruments of music;
⁶who drink wine from bowls,
 and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
 but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
 and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

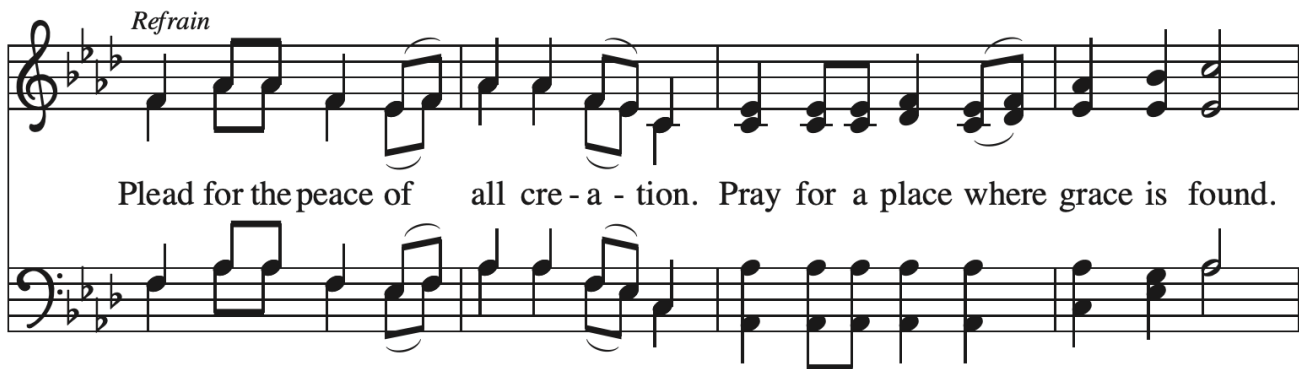


1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
 stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
 bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

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 Creator God, we thank you for this beautiful creation you have given us. Make us good stewards of all you have blessed us with. We thank you for family and friends, food to nourish our bodies, and homes to shelter us. We also remember those of our neighbors without those blessings, and we ask you to empower us to reach out to those in need and stir us to meet those needs wherever we can, in Jesus' name. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 We ask this day that you be with our world leaders, those in positions of power, and all of those in leadership positions. We ask your guidance be with our church leaders and our pastors. Help them to see the direction you are leading us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

#3 Light of the world, we ask that you lead us ever forward, taking one day, sometimes one moment, at a time. Help us to listen to you, as you call us out of our slumber and apathy. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for faith that is passed from generation to generation through examples of generosity and service. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Duncan, Dan, Donna & Ed, Eric & Lynn (Charlotte, Evan, Logan & Lucas), and Chris & Lisa (Dan, Rachel) 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 on 9/10

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

- Robert, brother of John, who died on 9/4

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Bob who is healing from fractured ribs following a fall
- Ed, father of Sandy's daughter-in-law, who is awaiting a lung transplant
- Frank, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Brian, who is recovering from 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.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

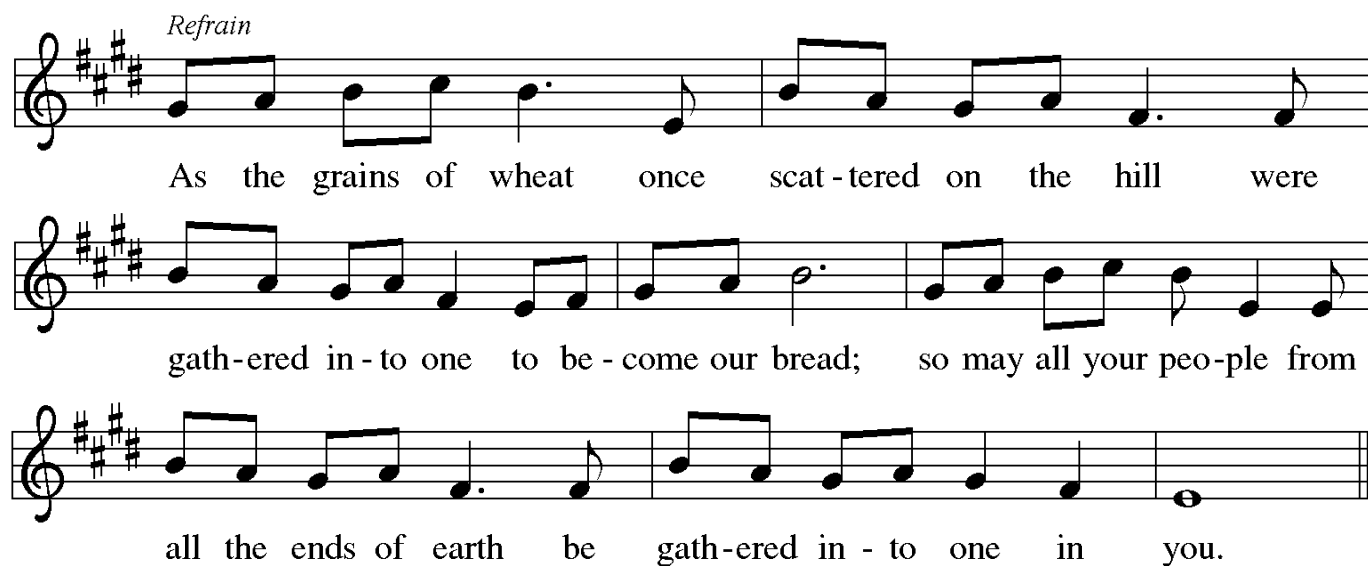
Poor Man Lazrus

African-American spiritual
arr. Jester Hairston

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 HYMNS

Come to the Table

Build a Longer Table

ELW 481

ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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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 - joice 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

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Capriccio

Tarquinio Merula

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director 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. 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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Place-sharing

Today's gospel evokes our sympathy. It opens the possibility—described as an impossibility—of place-sharing, trading or sharing places with each other. It also echoes a common theme: the pursuit of wealth in this world can lead us into idolatry and away from faith in Christ. Instead, as 1 Timothy 6:11 reminds us, we should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness, so that there is no “poor man named Lazarus” dying at our gates. After all, the greatest treasure—our eternal salvation, has already been procured for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Knowing this, we can share all we have with our neighbors, even our very place and salvation, confident that God will continue to provide for our needs.