



Sunday, October 2, 2022
17th 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, October 2, 2022 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

Faith of Our Fathers

ST. CATHERINE
setting, Jack. C. Goode

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



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

All



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.



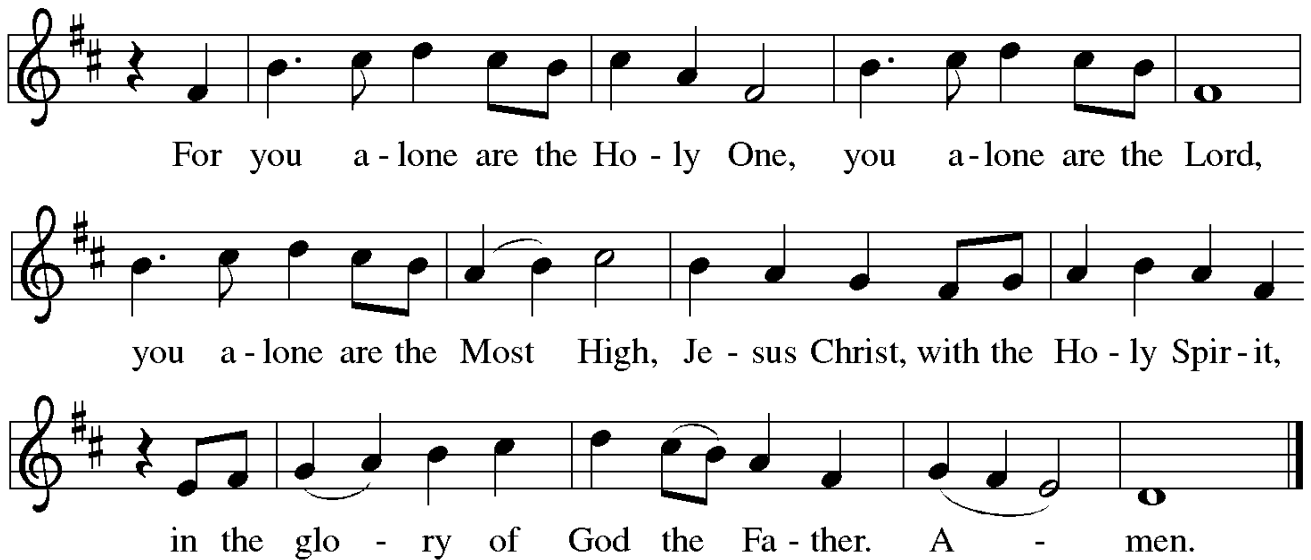
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
 and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
 and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrongdoing
 and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
 strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack
 and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
 therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost,
 and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

²Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

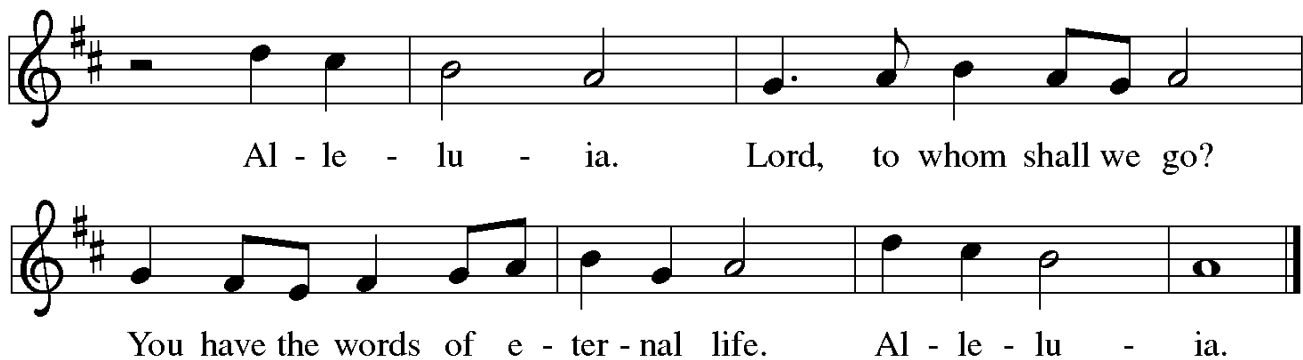
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your

apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World Like

ACS 1047

Choir: stanza 1
All: sts. 2, 3, 4, 5

What Is the World Like

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979
 Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952
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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 We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ, for our bishops, Elizabeth and Lee, for our pastors, Abby and Amy. Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster, relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all families and intimate relationships that they may be safe havens that nurture all that God has created us to be. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Kitty & Ron, David & Julie, Christopher & Kathryn (Blakely, Cooper), and Gretchen & Wes. 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 who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Lee, who died on 9/23
- Robert, brother of John, who died on 9/4

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Donna, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 9/28
- Dylan, who is recovering from surgery
- Bob, who is healing from fractured ribs following a fall
- Ed, father of Sandy's daughter-in-law, who is awaiting a lung transplant
- 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

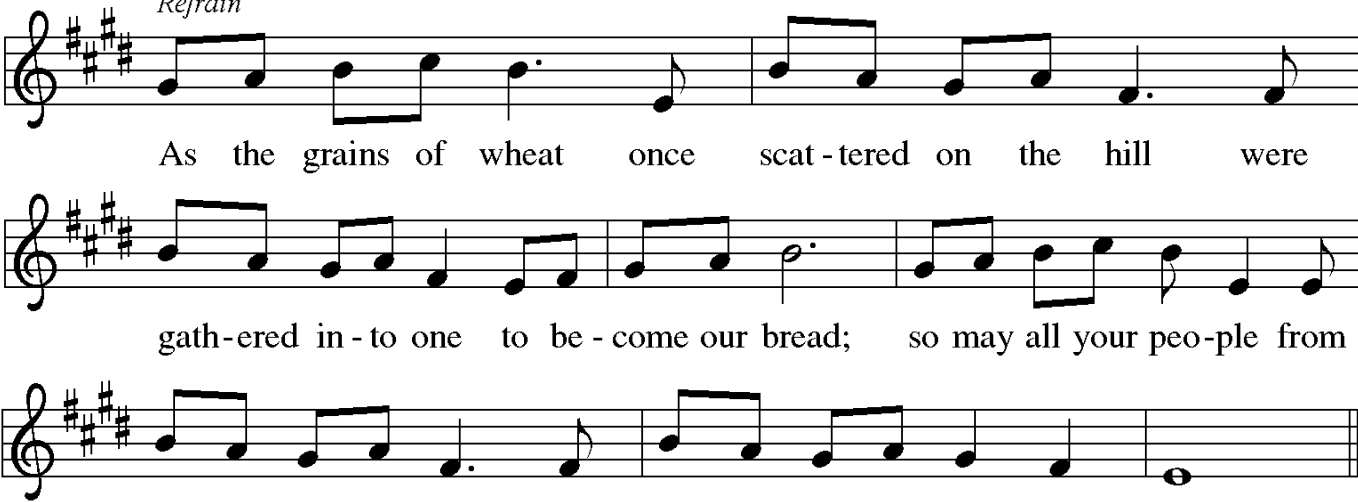
A Servant's Blessing

words: John Parker
music: Patti Drennan

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

We Walk by Faith

ELW 635

sts. 1, 3, 4, 5

Come Down, O Love Divine

ELW 804

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	Build Us Up, Lord	ELW 670
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

EIN FESTE BURG
setting, Wilbur Held

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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The Righteous Live by Faith

Faith is the theme for today's readings, but not just any faith. It is a life-transforming faith, one that demonstrates the very presence of God moving, alive, and active in God's people. In response to Habakkuk's oracle, the Lord answered him that "the righteous live by their faith" (Hab. 2:4b). But just what does it mean to be righteous? It's a righteousness imparted by God, who creates and claims each of us as God's own sons and daughters, bringing us into this family by our baptisms and by the faith God gives us makes us holy children. Being part of this divine family gives us our worth, even at those times we may not think of ourselves as worthy. In 2 Timothy 1.1-14, the author writes a history of the faith in Timothy's family, beginning with his grandmother and then passed on to his mother and himself. This is how many of us were first brought into the family of God: we had faithful parents who knew of their own God-given righteousness and then passed this gift on to their children. But again, it's all God's doing! Finally, Jesus' disciples boldly ask their teacher to "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). They knew that faith was something needed, and Jesus explains that even a small amount of faith can do great wonders. What does it mean to have this sort of faith, a faith that can serve God's purposes here to truly be God's work and yet it's done with our hands? On this Sunday, help the assembly experience this faith that God has given us. It's a gift and connection to our God.