

Sunday, October 23, 2022
20th 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 23, 2022 ~ 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

Trio on “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

ST. AGNES
Alfred V. Fedak

Prélude diatonique

Jâcques-Nicolas Lemmens

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God’s forgiveness. Keep the faith. God’s people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus’ sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

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. Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love the Lord with All Your Heart

words: J. Paul Williams
music: Lloyd Larson

BLC Children's Choir

assisted by: Phyllis Stock, piano Sue Cardinal, flute

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: JEREMIAH 14:7-10, 19-22

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us,

act, O Lord, for your name's sake;

our apostasies indeed are many,

and we have sinned against you.

⁸O hope of Israel,

its savior in time of trouble,

why should you be like a stranger in the land,

like a traveler turning aside for the night?

⁹Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the Lord concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the Lord does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?
We look for peace, but find no good;
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.

²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O Lord our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	ELW 816
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assisted by Olivia Finkbeiner, French horn

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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 God of peace, you are an ever-present help in times of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare especially in the Ukraine and Iran. Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 God of eternal life, to you be the glory forever. We give you thanks for Lee and all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and now live with you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Gwen & Paul, Cheryl (Seth, Vanessa), Chrissy & Robert, Alli & Jim O'Malley (Paige), and Paul. 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:

- Steve, who is recovering in the ICU after emergency surgery
- Lisa, as she as she recovers from anticipated surgery and awaits test results
- 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


Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Robert Wetzler
tune: Johann Steurlein

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

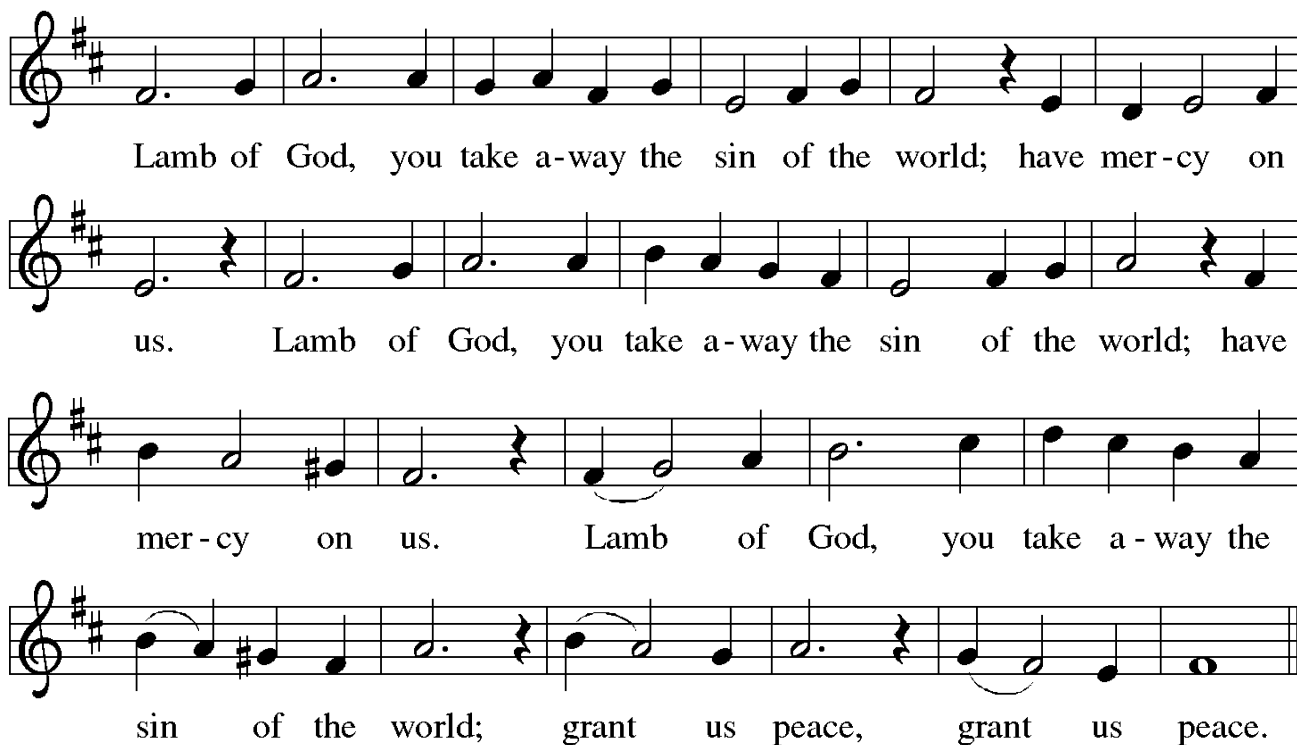
Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

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

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

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	O God of Mercy, God of Light	ELW 714
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Kingsfold Trumpet

KINGSFOLD
setting, Alfred V. Fedak

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

The flowers at that altar are given in loving memory of Lee Rosenbauer whose funeral was held on Monday, October 17.

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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Welcome New BLC Members – October 23, 2022

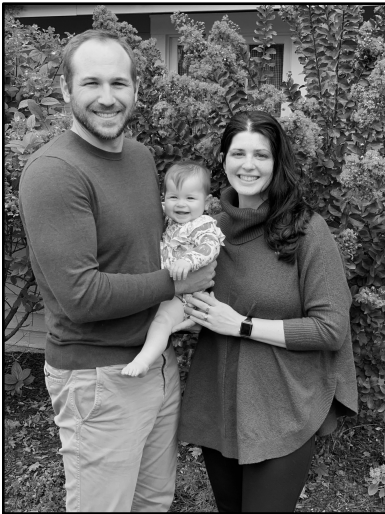


Lynn and Eric Meady

Eric and Lynn are parents to Evan (8), Charlotte (6), Logan (4), and Lucas (4). They moved to Fairport from Connecticut two years ago for a new work opportunity. Lynn is Finance Director at L3Harris and Eric is employed by CETech as Procurement Lead.

The Meadys enjoy a variety of activities and hobbies. As a family, they have fun exploring trails and boating on the canal. Eric likes gardening; Lynn enjoys reading; Evan plays baseball; Charlotte participates in gymnastics and dance; and Logan and Lucas like being mischievous.

The Meadys are transferring from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oxford, CT. They found BLC by driving through Fairport after moving into the area. This provided the initial spark that led them to want to learn more. They share that *“the people and the community”* is what continues to draw them to Bethlehem.



Caroline and Sean Reese

Sean and Caroline are parents to infant daughter, Madilyn. Caroline is originally from Pittsburgh and Sean is from Easton, PA, near Philadelphia. They met at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA, and moved to Pittsburgh following graduation. In 2016, they moved to Farmington when Sean took a new job in the area. That was followed in 2017 by a move to Macedon, where they currently reside.

Caroline is a Senior Compensation Analyst at Highland Hospital and Sean is an Environmental Engineer at Day Environmental. In their leisure time, they enjoy golf, hiking with their dog, Brody, kayaking, binge watching TV shows, and traveling to visit out-of-state family.

Sean and Caroline found BLC on the ELCA website when looking for a church in their new location. When asked what draws them to BLC, they share: *“During our visit, BLC seemed like a warm and welcoming congregation. We wanted a place that really welcomed children, as our first child, Madilyn, arrived in January.”*



Rory Ann and Fred Schoenfeld

Rory and Fred moved to Fairport in January 2022 from Long Island, where they both grew up. They have a family connection to BLC, as their son, Kevin, daughter-in-law, Beth, and granddaughters, Autumn and Ilana, are also members of Bethlehem. They come to us by way of transfer from Ascension Lutheran Church in Franklin Square, NY.

Rory and Fred are both retired teachers, Fred from Nassau Community College and Rory from teaching high school and later, preschool. In their leisure time, Fred enjoys reading, woodworking, electronics, and hiking. Rory's interests are reading, gardening, painting, and anything creative.

The Schoenfelds were familiar with Bethlehem having worshiped with us through the years when visiting Kevin and Beth. *"The way the congregation has embraced us and the opportunities for bible studies, and participation in ministries"* is what keeps them coming back to BLC.

God Be Merciful

We may expect the religious insider to be blessed, the moral person to be right with God. But as is so often the case, Jesus' parable for today sweeps away conventional expectations. Jesus surprises the disciples and us when he says it's not the Pharisee but rather the tax collector, that morally suspect, second-class citizen, who goes home "justified," right with God (Luke 18:14). Here is a strong reminder for those of us who are church "insiders." We are sinners who beg for God's mercy, utterly dependent on God's forgiveness and love—not merely for ourselves but for all in God's creation.