



THIS IS MY SON,
THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 17:5

Sunday, February 19, 2023
Transfiguration of Our Lord



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, February 19, 2023 ~ *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Prelude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

setting, Michael Burkhardt

Announcements

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins on Wednesday. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

In Thee Is Gladness

ELW 867

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Beautiful Savior

Silesian folk tune
arr. Rich Towsley

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: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

assisted by Alison Henry, cantor

INTRO: sung by cantor without repeats

Part A – starting with Group 1: standing by the altar

Group 2: sitting by the side of organ, starting 4 bars after Grp. 1

Group 3: sitting by the side of Good Shepherd window, starting 4 bars after Grp. 2

Part B to **Part C** – following cues from leaders

Alleluia Canon

A (1) *Repeat 3 times*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: This block contains the first musical staff of the Alleluia Canon. It is in 4/4 time and begins with a repeat sign. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The staff ends with a double bar line.

(2)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: This block contains the second musical staff of the Alleluia Canon. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The staff ends with a double bar line.

(3)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: This block contains the third musical staff of the Alleluia Canon. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The staff ends with a double bar line.

B *Repeat as necessary*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical staff for Part B. It begins with a repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The staff ends with a double bar line.

C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical staff for Part C. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The staff ends with a double bar line.

Music: W. A. Mozart, 1756-1791; from *Exultate, Jubilate*, adapt.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Jesus on the Mountain Peak
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1 Je - sus on the moun-tain peak, stands a - lone in
 2 Trem-bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro-claim-ing
 4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph-ets

4

glo - ry blaz - ing. Let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak-ing. All the proph-ets and the law
 in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!
 sing be - fore him; first and last and on - ly One.

7

join the saints and an - gels prais-ing. Halle - lu - jah!
 shout through them their joy - ful greet-ing. Halle - lu - jah!
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won-der! Halle - lu - jah!
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him! Halle - lu - jah!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world, especially those working now in Turkey and Syria. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#2 Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor, Julie, and local leaders, our governor, Kathy, and state legislators, our president, Joe, and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

#3 Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We follow you in sharing love and care in our world. We pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Mark & Sandy, Craig & Jenni, GerryAnn & Wayne, Brendan & Lisa (Elizabeth & Meghan), Dave & Jennifer. Be with our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe as they follow where you lead. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated.

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- the safe delivery and birth of Caden John R., grandchild of Bob & Wendy R. on 2/3
- the safe delivery and birth of McKinley Alysce, the granddaughter of Terri & Jeff P. on 1/30

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

- Tim M., husband of Linda M., who died on 2/10

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Joanne S., who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Michele, friend of Donna and Jim B., who is living with multiple health challenges
- Mark F., who is recovering at home following surgery
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

Hear also these concerns we raise in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN
arr. Mark Hayes

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN	Lord of Light	ELW 688
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Lord of light, your name outshining
All the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom
As the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose
In the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven,
So on earth your will be done.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Friends, we come to the table
Where God intends us to be nourished.
So come, you who hunger and thirst
For a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world.
Jesus Christ, who is present at our tables,
Now invites us to be guests at his.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now we do as Jesus did.

We take this bread and wine, the produce of earth and fruit of human labor.

In these, Jesus has promised to be present;

through these, Christ feeds us.

Lord Jesus,

open our hearts to believe that you come in this meal of grace. Amen.

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

Come and taste the joy of God!

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.

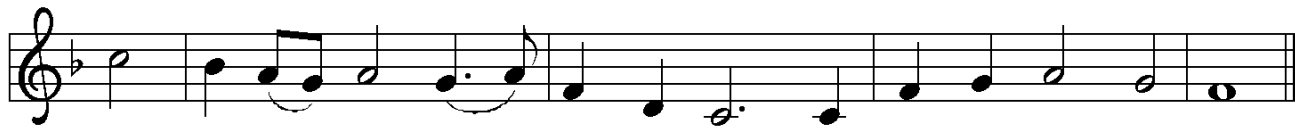
THE COMMUNION



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

ELW 315

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice † bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

During the penitential season of Lent, we refrain from using the joyful exclamation of “Alleluia.” As we sing this hymn, we will symbolically “bury the Alleluia” to the prepare our hearts for Lent.

SENDING HYMN	Shine, Jesus, Shine	ELW 671
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assisted by BLC Percussion Ensemble

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude

Alfred 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

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: 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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Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. Mountaintop moments Scripture are different: awe–inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God’s presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, “not a tame lion” (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God’s place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically “roll up the Alleluias” today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ’s light and the entrance to a no–less–real season of Jesus’ and our own lives, the “valley” season of Lent. But that doesn’t mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.