

*Sunday, April 23, 2023*  
*Third Sunday of Easter*



# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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, April 23, 2023 ~ *Third Sunday of Easter***

## PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

*VRUECHTEN*

Dutch, 17th cent.  
setting, Michael Burkhardt

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.*

## GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gives us new birth and raises us to new life.

**Amen.**

The witness of scripture tells us: We have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, our creator, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

**For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:5)**

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. (Romans 14:7-8)  
**So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord, for Christ died, rose from death, and lives again in order to be Lord of the living and of the dead.**  
(Romans 14:8-9)

Death has been swallowed up in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:54)  
**Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (1 Corinthians 15:57)

GATHERING HYMN	Day of Arising	ELW 374
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#### 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. Gracious God, you are Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of all things; and yet you walk beside us, opening your heart to us. In humility we thank you. In awe we open our hearts to your presence. In willingness we open our spirits to what you are saying to us. Speak to us, that we may know your presence, receive your grace, and live according to your will.  
**Amen.**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
setting, Joshua Evanovich

Jane Morale, violin    Phyllis Stock, piano

## 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: First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>36</sup>"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying,

“The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free	WOV 679
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*assisted by cantors: Sarah Morrisette, Dave Wideman*

Cantor: st. 1

All: sts. 2, 3

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We affirm our faith today drawing on the witness of scripture (1 Peter 1. 17-25)

**Gracious God, you who judge all, we live in reverent awe of you. For us, who were kidnapped by our own sins, you paid dearly to set us free—not a ransom of perishable things like silver or gold, but by your precious love, which we see in the blood of Christ. When he died, like an innocent lamb sacrificed for someone else, we saw your willingness to suffer for us. You have had this love for us since the beginning of time; and now we see it. Through Christ we have come to trust in you, who raised Christ from the dead into glory. For you have given us a new birth, through your living and enduring Word. Therefore our faith and hope are set on you alone. With your love we love one another. Even in the breaking of our hearts you have made yourself known to us; and now by the power of your Spirit we are sent into the world, to proclaim in word and deed your infinite love and grace. Alleluia!**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

#1 As you made yourself known to the people walking to Emmaus, help us to be attentive to your presence in as we walk each day. Awaken our hearts to notice you in the people we meet and the situations we find ourselves in each day.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

#2 Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet.

Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

#3 We thank you for the glorious sun and the colors of spring. Help us to care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Be with those who are suffering from natural disasters. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you make all things new. Strengthen and renew the relationships we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: David & Susan, Bob & Joyce, Bill & Jill (Ellie & Will), David & Tarma, and Gary & Paula. Bring new life and growth to the ministry of our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**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:*

- Rose C., grandmother of Andrea P., who died on 4/13 at the age of 105
- John B., friend of John C.
- Peter D., friend and neighbor of the Wholley family, who died on 4/7

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

- David G., son of Don and Sandy G.
- Sandy, sister of Susie D., as she transitions home after an extended time in a rehabilitation facility
- Taylor H., niece of Kathy M., as she prepares for her amputation surgery on April 24
- Michele, friend of Jim and Donna B., who is living with multiple health challenges
- Kit, friend of Jim and Donna B., whose cancer has returned and faces further testing
- Alice Y., mother of Ruth G., who is recovering from a hospitalization
- Don R., father of Kim K., who has moved to a rehabilitation facility
- Dorice R., mother of Kim K., who is experiencing health challenges
- Jim K., godfather of Roger K., who is facing significant health issues

Hear these prayers we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.  
**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)



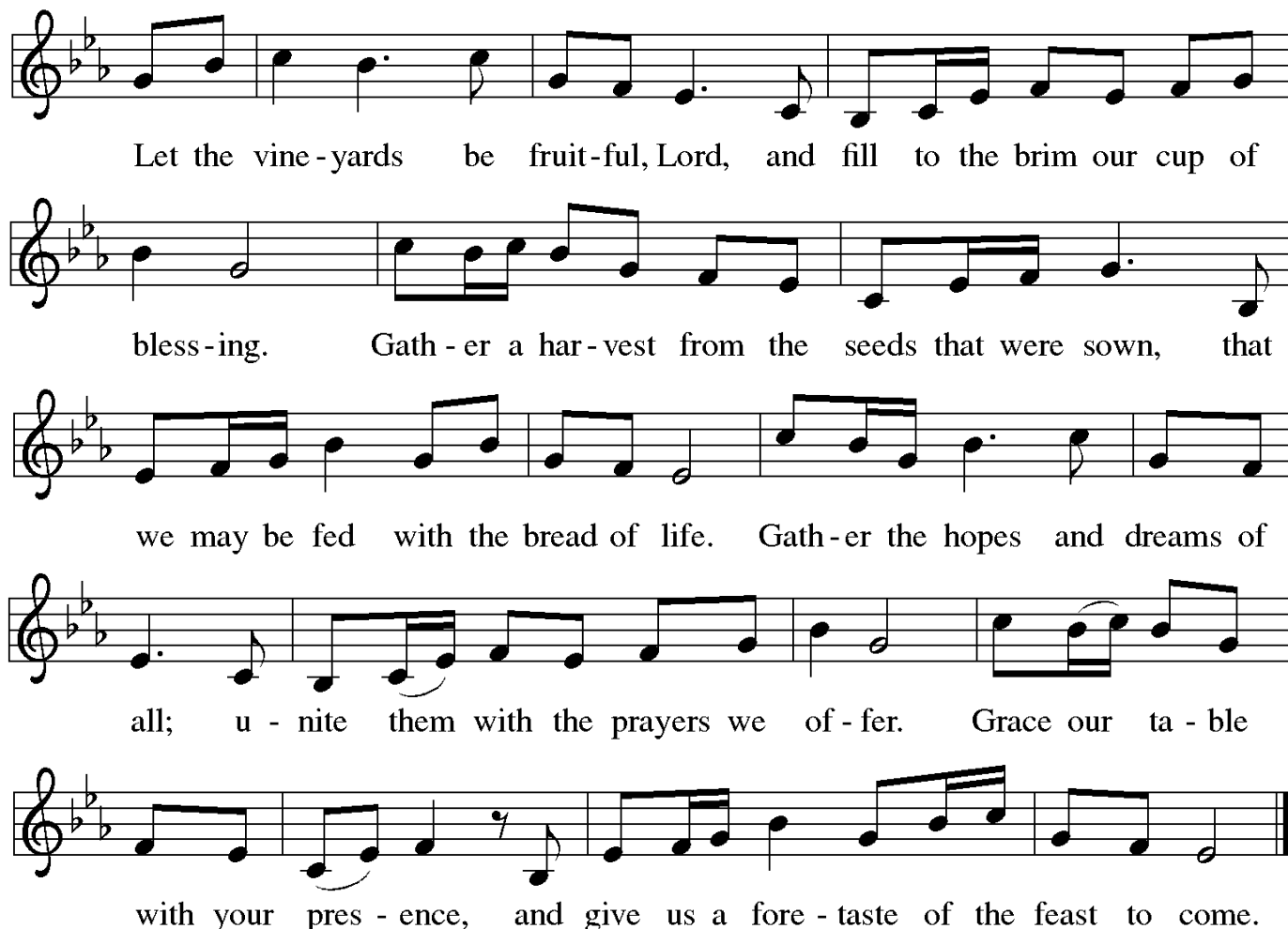
## OFFERING OF MUSIC

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

text, Latin, 15th cent.  
trans. Benjamin Webb  
*DEO GRACIAS*  
setting, Carl F. Schalk

### The Chancel Choir

#### OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,

**in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

We thank you, God, for in the beginning you brought light out of darkness.  
**From the dust of the earth you made us, lifted us, and breathed life into us.**

You make us your people, and promise to be our God.  
**You walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death.**

You condemn the forces of injustice and oppression, and set free the imprisoned.  
**You set us free from what binds us and go with us toward your new world.**

You raise up what is dead and lift up those who are without hope.  
**Light out of darkness! Hope from despair! Life out of death!**  
**This is your way. We give thanks, and with all Creation we praise you.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us  
the body and blood of Christ.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be the Body of Christ, who have  
died and have been raised to new life, to serve you in love without fear, in the  
power of your Holy Spirit and the strength of eternal life.**

## 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 know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**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

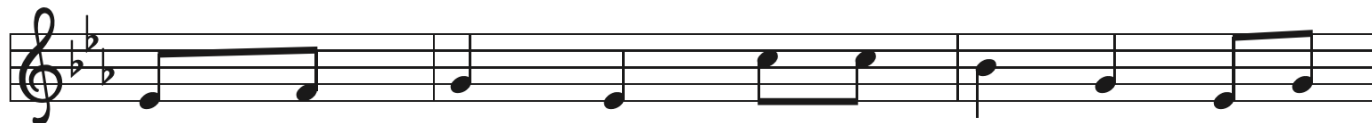
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

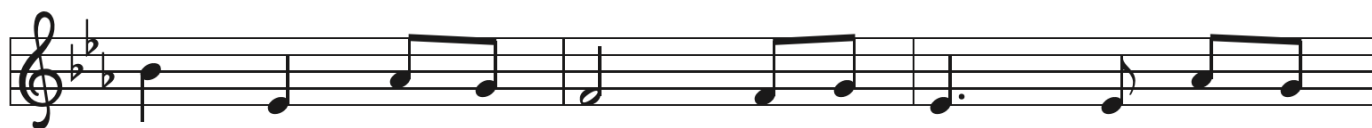
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

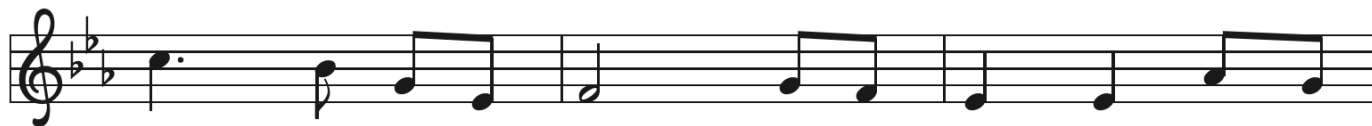


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

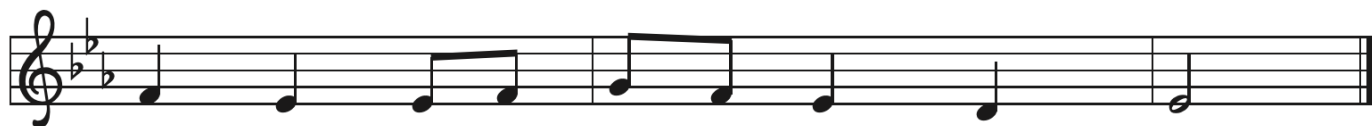
## Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

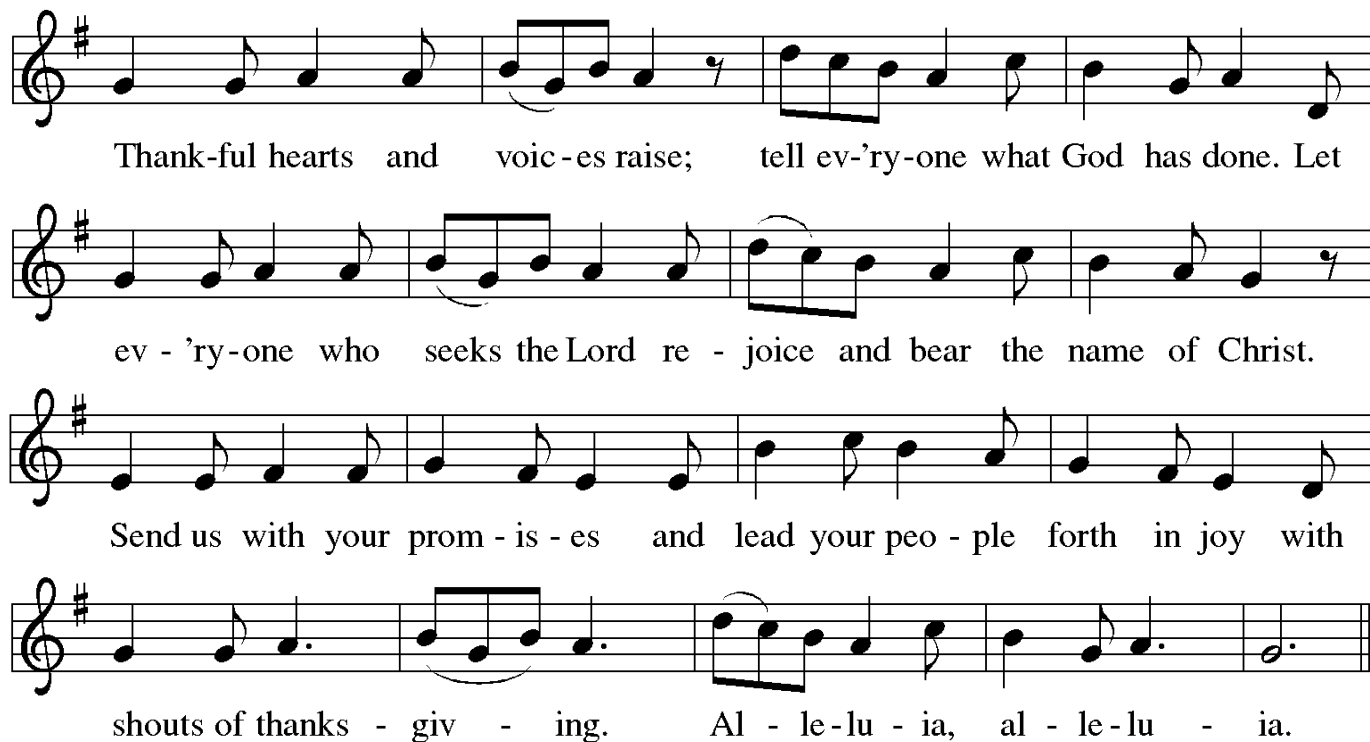
ELW 464

What Feast of Love

ELW 487

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 God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

ELW 548

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*LLANFAIR*

tune, Robert Williams  
setting, Albert L. Travis  
(ELW 369)

## **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? Talk with Mark Finke or one of the pastors following worship or contact Mark directly at [volunteersupport@blcfairport.org](mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org).

**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:** 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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Thanksgiving for Baptism, adapted from Moravian Book of Worship, p. 92

Prayer of the Day, Affirmation of Faith, and portions of the Communion liturgy,

written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net), used by permission.

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken: Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007; Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## **Change of Heart**

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. The writer of 1 Peter 1:3–9 instructs believers to love deeply from the heart. The disciples who encounter the risen Christ notice afterward that their hearts were “burning” within them as Jesus reveals the scriptures and then himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition, or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. They not only turn from their sin and doubt but literally change direction, going back from Emmaus to Jerusalem with renewed courage, faith, and hope. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.