



*Sunday, April 30, 2023*  
*Fourth 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 30, 2023 ~ *Fourth Sunday of Easter***

## PRELUDE

Auf, auf, mein Herz

(Awake, My Heart, with Gladness)

Johann Crüger

setting, Jeffrey Blersch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.*

## 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	Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!	ELW 382
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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. Loving God, Gentle Christ, Life-Giving Spirit, you shepherd us from death to life, from loneliness to community. You know us, and you speak to our deepest hearts. Even deeper than our conscious thought, something in us knows your voice, and responds. So we listen, God, for your Living Word. Speak to us now, and always, and lead us to life.

**Amen.**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

Kirchen Arie

Alessandro Stradella

(Church Aria)

Olivia Finkbeiner, French horn

#### **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: Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they

will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	My Shepherd, You Supply My Need	ELW 782
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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**

## WORDS OF WELCOME FOR NEW MEMBERS

**We welcome you as members of this congregation, inspired and invested in the ministry we all share. You are beloved, and your presence here is a gift! May God bless these new relationships and our common call as agents of God's mercy and the abundance the world needs!**

## 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 You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

#2 You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

#3 The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. 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: Jeff & Julie, Jim & Sherry, Frank & Jane, John & Paulette, and Patty & Ralph; and those we receive as members today: Pat and Dave, Volker, and Doris. 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:*

- Dana B., uncle of Mark F., who died on 4/20
- Lorraine B., friend of Ruth H.
- Rose C., grandmother of Andrea P., who died on 4/13 at the age of 105
- John B., friend of John C.

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

- Paul M., brother-in-law of Marcy A., who is hospitalized after a stroke
- Sandra H. wife of Jeff and Ruth H.'s nephew, who is recovering from surgery
- David G., son of Don and Sandy G.
- Sandy P., sister of Susie D., as she transitions home after an extended time in a rehabilitation facility
- Taylor H., niece of Kathy M., as she recovers from her amputation surgery

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).*

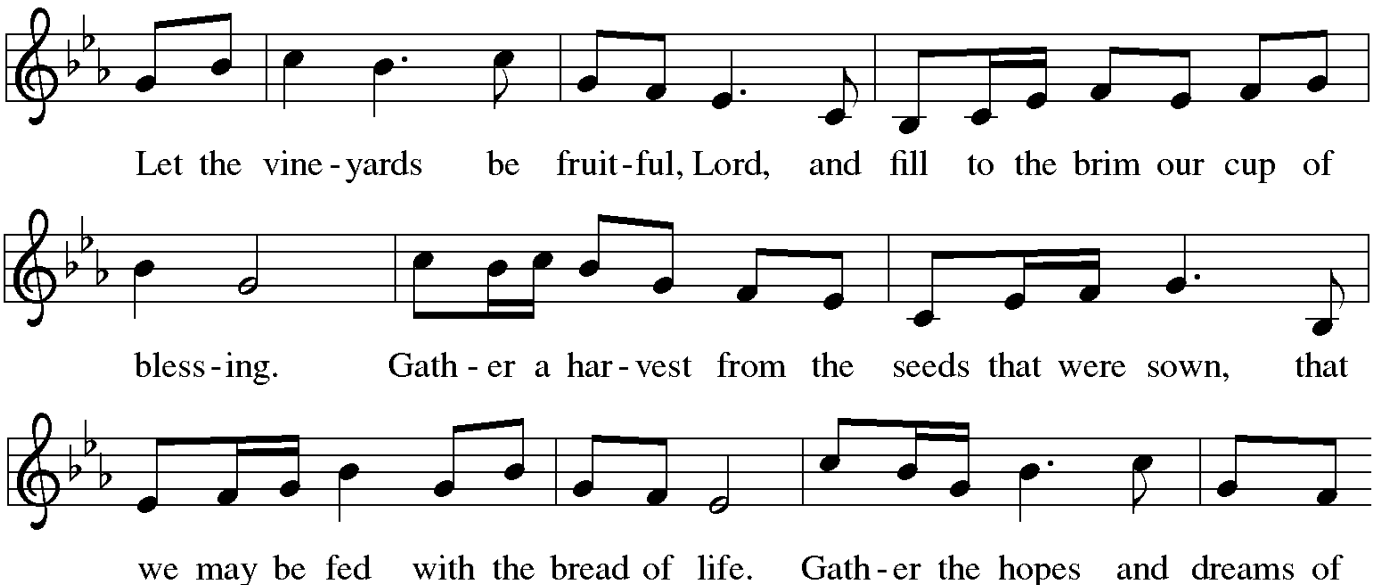
### OFFERING OF MUSIC

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23  
Howard Goodall

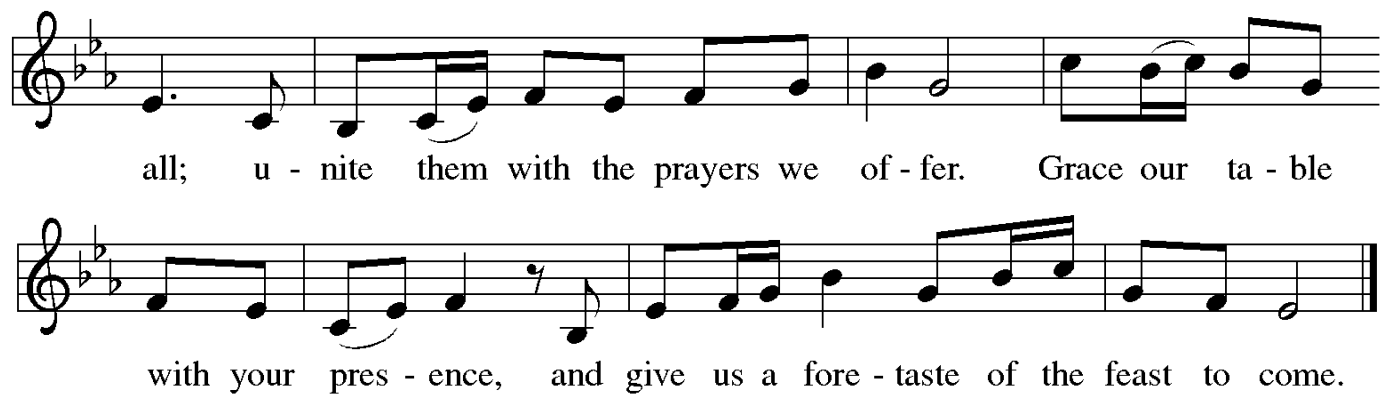
The Chancel Choir

### 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





#### 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.*

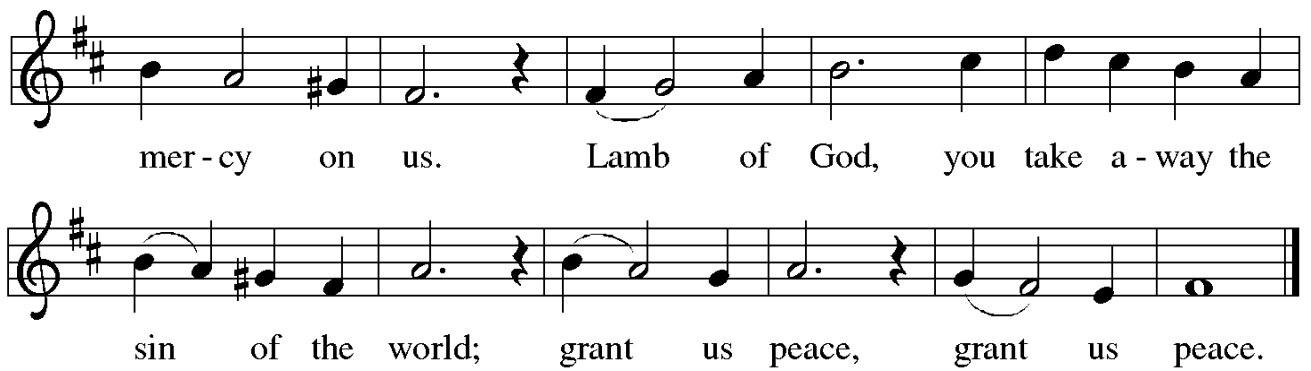
## THE COMMUNION



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



# COMMUNION HYMNS

Shepherd Me, O God

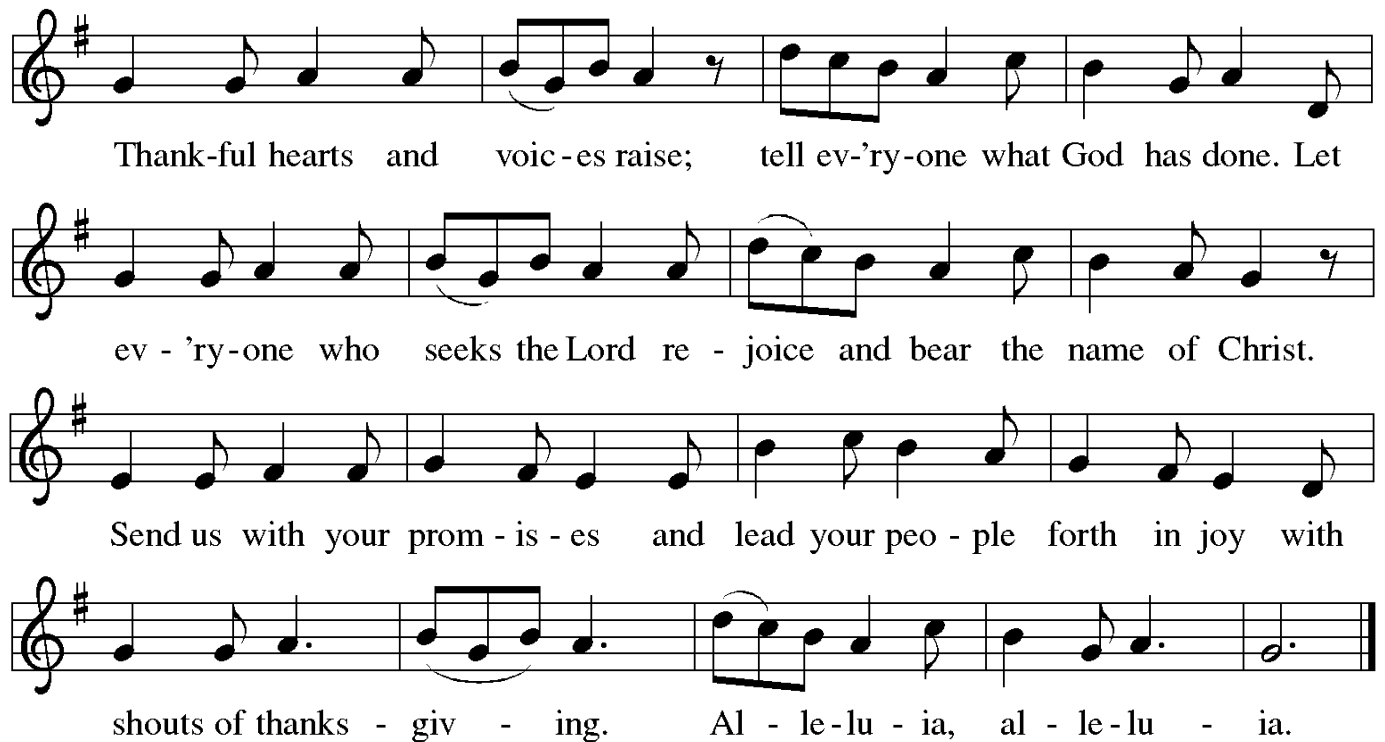
ELW 780

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



## **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	That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright	ELW 384
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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553

Johann Sebastian Bach



**Pat and David Olson** were married at Bethlehem on October 15, 2022. Pat is a long-time resident of Penfield and a former member of Fairport United Methodist Church. Born in Corning, NY, Pat went to nursing school and worked as a R.N. Pat served as a caregiver for her husband until he died in 2020. David was born in Wisconsin and received his PhD in Chemistry from the Iowa State University. He moved to Penfield this past fall to join Pat after living for over 50 years New Jersey, where he worked for 34 years for Mobile Oil and was a member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Ewing, NJ. David's first wife died in a tragic accident in 2021. David and Pat met online and first got to know each other through Facetime before deciding to visit each other. When David made the decision to leave his long-

time home to move to Penfield to be with Pat, she decided to join him in worshiping at the congregation of his choice, which is what brought them to Bethlehem. They have enjoyed the friendliness of the Bethlehem community and are eager to get more acquainted with people in the congregation.

Address: 63 Wedgewood Drive, Penfield, NY. 14526

Phone: David – (609) 233-8461; Pat – (585) 314-1312



**Volker Hausin (father) and Doris Hausin (daughter)** have lived in the Rochester area for many years. Volker was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1942 and spent time there during and after World War II and continues to carry memories of the war and its aftermath. Volker is a retired engineer who worked for Xerox. He enjoys gardening, reading and singing. Doris lives at home with her

father and enjoys painting. She has an exuberant personality and likes meeting new people!

Address: 104 Manorshire Drive; Apt. 1 Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: (585) 364-0282

## **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.

## **An Abundant Life**

Abundant life is promised to those who follow Jesus. But what is meant by abundant life? Some Christians, and much of contemporary American culture, interpret an abundant life to mean the “good life” of many fine things, an opulent lifestyle. Much of our economy and leisure time revolves around consumerism—shopping and buying things which we hope will make us happier and our lives better. But an abundance of things does not necessarily lead to an abundant life.

What does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life? Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is with us at all times, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.