

Sunday, October 1, 2023 18<sup>h</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ <u>www.blcfairport.org</u> The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

# Sunday, October 1, 2023 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

HYFRYDOL

Welsh Tune

Warren Swenson (ELW 631)

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

# **GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** 

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,  $\pm$  Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

# Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our

neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

#### Amen.

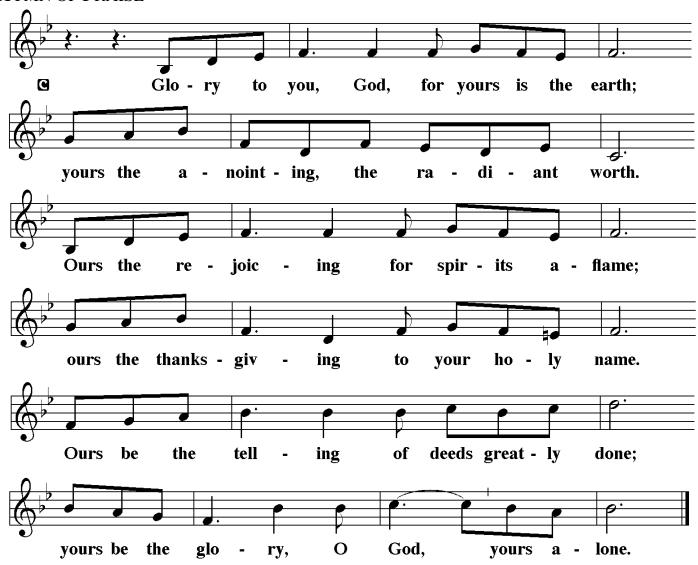
GATHERING HYMN	What God Ordains Is Good Indeed	ELW 776
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### **GREETING**

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.

### HYMN OF PRAISE



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# **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: Philippians 2: 1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Matthew.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we

are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** 

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

**ELW 818** 

## APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

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 to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

# A brief silence.

#1 We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, church staff and leaders the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

#2 Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

#3 Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, you build us into your beloved community. Strengthen the connections we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Kitty & Ron, David & Julie, Christopher & Kathryn (Blakely, Cooper), Gretchen & Wes. Strengthen the ministries we share with others, especially our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Extend your arms of mercy to those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Anita T, recovering from surgery on 9/25
- Wayne W, who is unable to walk while a tendon in his leg heals

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **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 <a href="mailto:blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry">blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry</a>.

OFFERING OF MUSIC Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from Petite Mass

text, Latin Gregorian chant music, John Leavitt

The Chancel Choir

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord.

Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty,

give

us

and

all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

fore-taste of

the

feast

to

come.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** 

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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.

on earth as in heaven.

Build us into a lasting community that embodies your love. Strengthen us to serve you in all we do. Amen.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,

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**

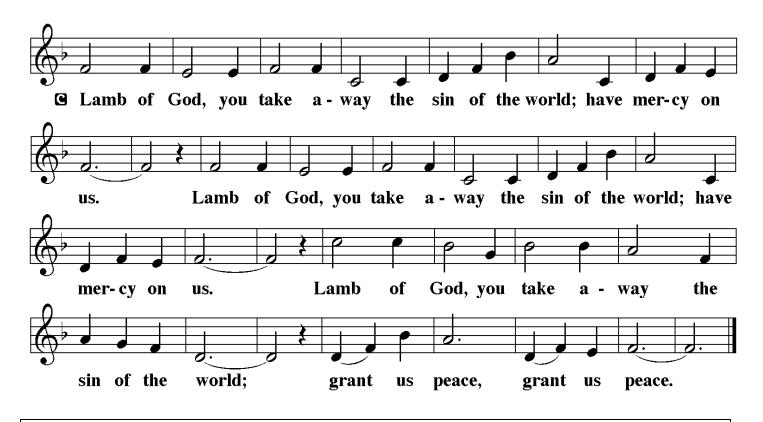
Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

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

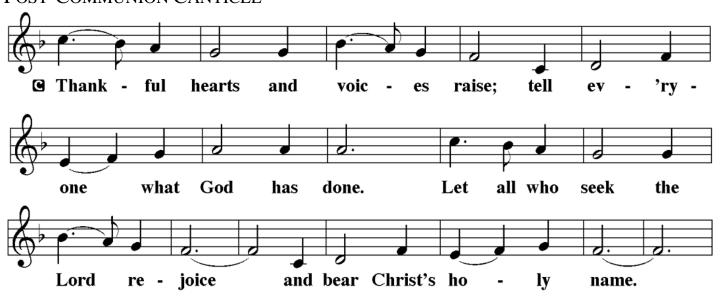


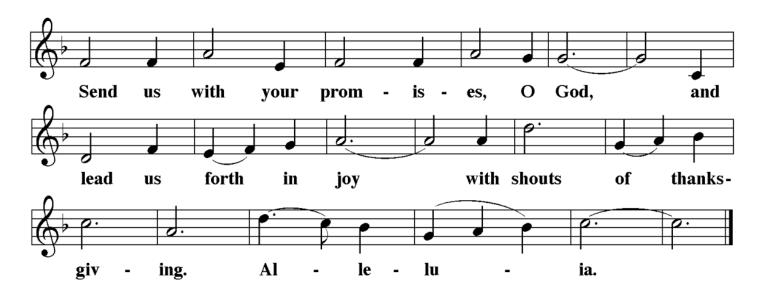
COMMUNION HYMNS Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word Be Thou My Vision

ELW 517 ELW 793

TABLE BLESSING

# POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





# **LEAVING TO SERVE**

### **BENEDICTION**

Blest

Blest

are

are

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in + Christ Jesus.

### Amen.

SENDING HYMN Lead Me, Lord

assisted by Rich Towsley, guitar

# LEAD ME, LORD



hun - ger

on - ly

per - se - cu - ted

ho - li - ness

your

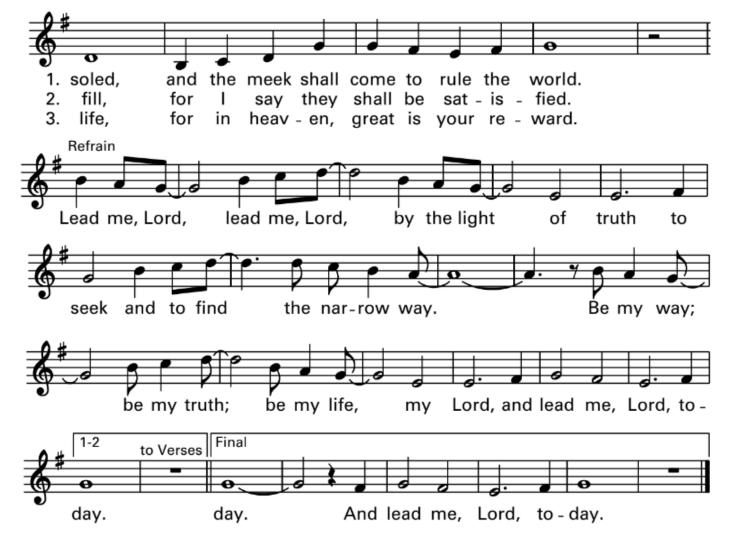
in

can

ho - lv

they whose

you, though



Text: Matthew 5:3–12; 7:7, 13; John 14:6. Text and music © 1987, John D. Becker. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

# Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

MONKLAND

(Let Us with a Gladsome Mind)

Albert L. Travis tune, attr. John Antes

### **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 <a href="mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org">volunteersupport@blcfairport.org</a>.

The altar flowers are given by Judy Lohr in loving memory of her husband, Bob.

**Communicate with us:** Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <a href="https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/">https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/</a> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at <a href="www.blcfairport.org">www.blcfairport.org</a>. 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 <a href="office@blcfairport.org">office@blcfairport.org</a> or visit <a href="https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/">https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/</a>

**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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# **An Invitation to Grace**

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. "I can't imagine ever doing that." "How can people live like that?" "Who would do such a thing?" At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others. These words are a reminder that all people stand in need of God's grace.

Each of readings assigned for this day shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father. Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God's grace. Ezekiel proclaims God's invitation, "Turn, then, and live" (Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32). This is an invitation that extends to all people, from a God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus' act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God's grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today's readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.