

*Sunday, May 12, 2024  
Ascension of Our Lord*



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, May 12, 2024 ~ *Ascension of Our Lord*

### PRELUDE

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor  
(BRYN CALFARIA)

William Owen  
setting, Michael Burkhardt

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

### GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 47 and Psalm 93)

Clap your hands, all you peoples.

**Shout to God with a joyful sound.**

The LORD reigns, robed in majesty!

**The LORD has made the world so sure it cannot be moved.**

Sing praises to God, sing praises.

**God reigns over all the earth, over all nations and peoples!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN	Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor	ELW 475
----------------	--------------------------------------	---------

## 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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

A Mother's Prayer

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty  
and Fionán de Barra

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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: Ephesians 1:15-23

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and

above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## 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.*

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

#1 You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace,  
**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: Jim & Sherry, Frank & Jane, John & Paulette, Patty & Ralph, and John & Patti. 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 who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:*

- Peter M, brother-in-law of Pat E, who died on 5/4
- Karen M, sister-in-law of Pat E, who died on 4/29
- Michael Sick, nephew of Jeff D, who died on April 19

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

- Hilary M, cousin of Kris K, who has received a cancer diagnosis

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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

Set Me as a Seal

text, Song of Solomon  
music, Richard Nance

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 the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,

**you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

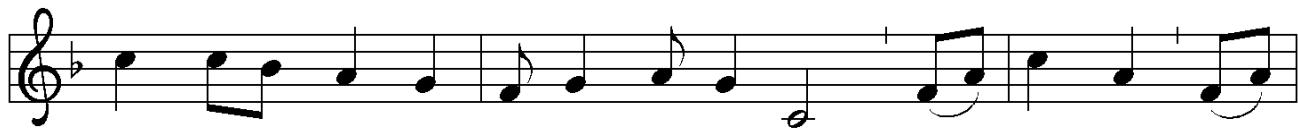
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Joined to Christ, our vine, 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

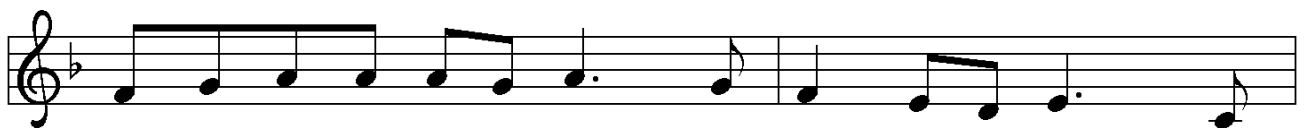
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat.

**Thanks be to God!**

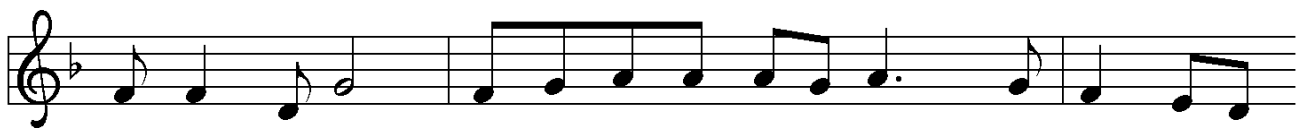
## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*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.*

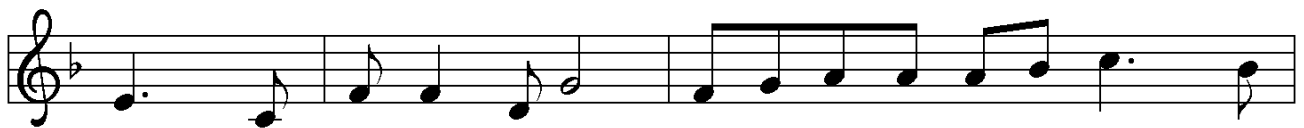
## THE COMMUNION



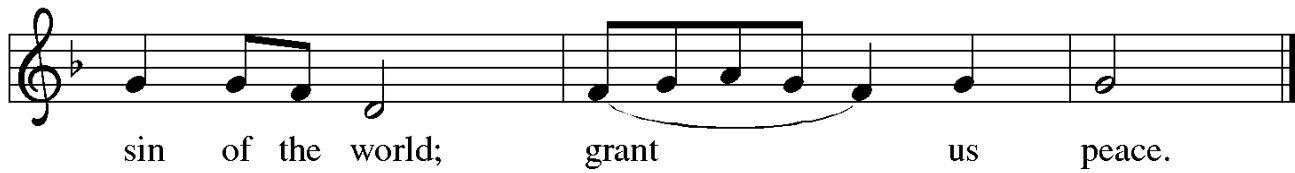
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



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



COMMUNION HYMNS

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

Heaven Is Singing for Joy

ELW 664

TABLE BLESSING

**LEAVING TO SERVE**

SENDING OF QUILTS

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace!

**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Léon Boëllmann

(Toccatina)

from *Heures mystiques – Messe 4*, op. 29, 4.

## **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

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Vocal Ensemble: Sarah Morrissette, Kathy Moragne, Donna Berner

Rich Towsley, guitar

Olivia Finkbeiner, French horn

**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).

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.  
From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education  
Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

"Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor" Music: William Owen Arranger: Michael Burkhardt© 1990 Morning Star Music Publishers  
"A Mother's Prayer" Words and music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Fionán de Barra© 2012 Getty Music and Fionán de Barra (adm. MusicServices.org)  
"Set Me as a Seal", Text: Song of Solomon Music: Richard Nance, © 2000 Walton Music Corporation  
"Sortie"- (Toccatina) from *Heures Mystiques – Messe 4*, op. 29, 4., Music: Léon Boëllmann, © 2010 Les Éditions Outremontaises

## Tag—You're It!

Jesus has been raised from the dead and has appeared in a variety of ways to convince people of God's power. On Ascension Day, Jesus is taken to heaven, but not without promises and action plans for those who remain. Wait here! (Ready?) You will receive power to be witnesses throughout the whole earth. You will receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God. You will receive an inheritance. (Set . . .) You will know hope. You, the church, are Christ Jesus' body, even as his body disappears from sight. (Go!)

It's like a holy game of tag in which Jesus tags followers, saying, "You're it. Now, you're *me* in the world." These are words we gather in worship to wait for, and we don't have long to wait. As we dip fingers in the font, we touch promises. We're a part of Christ's family. As we meet at the table, we taste promises. We become Christ's body. And next Sunday is Pentecost—Holy Spirit, come—this is the one who comes as promised, to call, bring together, inspire, and make holy.

These promises connected to Jesus' ascension result in the biblical stories about followers who worship, bless God, gain hopeful attitudes and a sense of mission. The two men in white robes urged those gazing up toward heaven to get going! We also need a similar prompt: This living Jesus comes the same way as you saw him go. So watch for the presence of Christ, powerfully making the church his body. Watch for the presence of Christ, whenever the church pours itself out in love for others. As we come to know him and the hope to which he has called us, may we have open minds, enlightened hearts, and be clothed with power from on high.