

CREATED

TO

BE

**FREE**

*Sunday, June 30, 2024  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*





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, June 30, 2024 ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## PRELUDE

I Will Arise  
(RESTORATION)

Early American hymn  
arr. Kim Robertson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. In July, ELCA youth and young adults, including five youth and two adult leaders from Bethlehem, will gather in New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We celebrate their opportunity to be in relationship with others from across the ELCA. In solidarity with their journey, our Created to Be sermon series draws on the daily themes that will shape this year's gathering. We are created to be:*

- ***brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.*
- ***authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.*
- ***free**, to be transformed by the gospel.*
- ***disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.*
- ***disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.*

**Attention kids:** You are welcome to an activity bag or clipboard with paper and crayons to use during worship! They are located near the entrance to the sanctuary.  
Ask an usher if you need help!

## GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.  
**Amen. Blessed be God forever.**

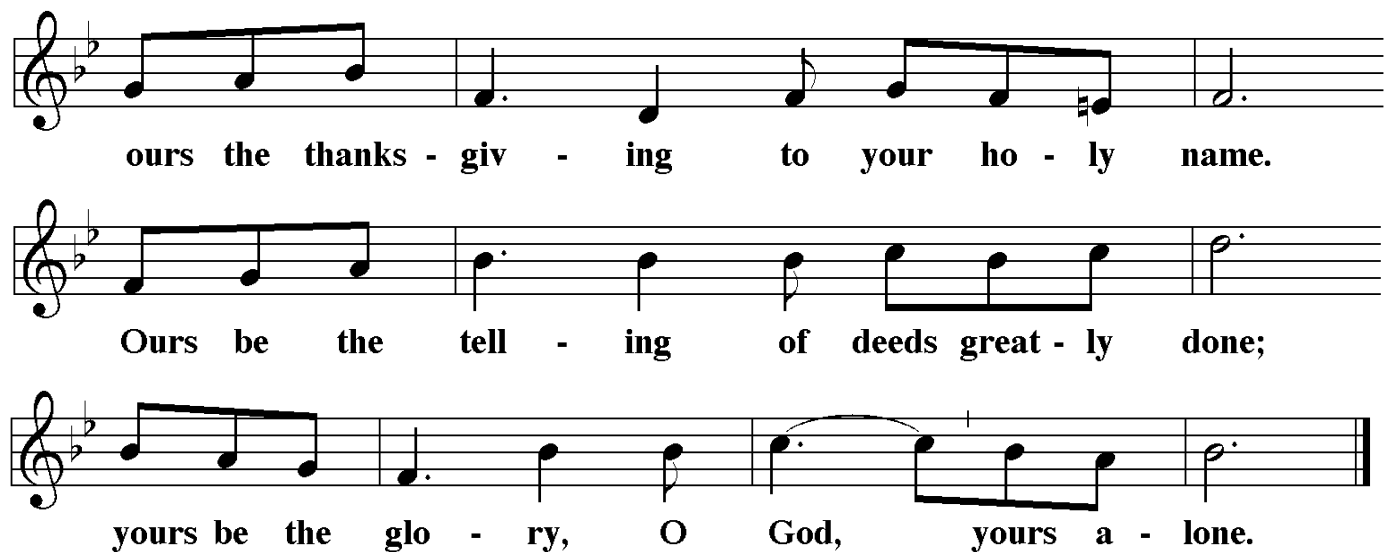
GATHERING HYMN	Rise, Shine, You People!	ELW 665
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GREETING

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

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you have created us to be free. We live in a world that feels limited. Help us to believe that when we follow you, nothing is impossible. Build in us the courage to follow wherever you lead without fear of failure. Draw the spirit of liberation from within us so that we might love and serve you and our neighbors more radically. We pray this in the name of the one who came into the world so that we might be free, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-15

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup>and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

## 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.*

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

#1 God of abundance, you fill your church with a multitude of gifts. Sustain those among us who feel they are not valued. Open our hearts to the wondrous breadth of all who call upon your name. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 God of creation, your goodness abounds. Multiply the fruits of the earth and rescue it from our wastefulness. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 God of justice, you reign in steadfast love. Bring peace between nations ravaged by war or strife and illumine paths of justice and freedom for those who lead them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

By the power of your Spirit, you nurture and bring growth. Strengthen the connections we share with these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Sara & Ryan (Aderyn & Ivy), Alexander & Yolanda (Alex & Ivanna), Andy & Ruth, Chrisanne & Nancy, and Marjorie & Mark. Bring new life and growth to this congregation and to the ministry of our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Breathe new life into those struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:*

- the safe arrival of Samuel Irving T, son of Kristen C and Dan T, and grandson of Howard and Jan S, born on 6/18

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

- Lisa R who fell and broke her pelvis
- Maeve, granddaughter of Fred and Rory S, who is dealing with several health challenges
- Dave M, recovering from surgery on 6/21
- Gary P, brother of Donna K, who is receiving full-time care at home due to complications from COVID-19 and dementia

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of 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*

[blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry).

### OFFERING OF MUSIC

Prayer for Peace

Paul Fey

### OFFERTORY



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.**  
**Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make**  
**us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

God, you open wide your hands and feed all creation with your goodness.  
**Open us to receive all that you give us – your mercy, your grace, your love,**  
**your very self. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:  
**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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!  
**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.*

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.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

We Come to the Hungry Feast  
This Is My Song

ELW 479  
ELW 887

## TABLE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## LEAVING TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

Since the beginning of time, humanity has desired and cried out for freedom.

**Because without freedom, we are constrained to be what others expect.**

Yet the freedom of Christ is transformative, calling us to be who are at our core:

**Beloved children of God.**

Go now, assured that in † Christ you have been freed from the expectations that separate us from God and one another.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW 841

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
(NETTLETON)

Early American hymn  
setting, Diane Bish

*Today's altar flowers are given by the church council in thanksgiving for  
Mark Finke's work as Volunteer and Ministry Support Coordinator.*

*The altar flowers today are given by Lynn Moulton in joyful celebration of the  
40th wedding anniversary of Linda and Dan Juers.*

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

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 one of the pastors following worship or send an email to [volunteersupport@blcfairport.org](mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org) and we'll follow up!

**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).

Prayer of the Day and Sending and Benediction are adapted from the Getting Ready Resources for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

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"Prayer for Peace" Music: Paul Fey © 2022 Paul Fey

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Music: *Repository of Sacred Music III*, 1813; Arranger: Diane Bish © 1997 Fred Bock Music Company



## Jesus' Power Is Enough

The story of two healings in a single reading in Mark 5:21–43 appears to present a horrific choice: should Jesus hurry to the dying daughter of a rich man, or pause to heal an outcast woman? The urgency of both requests before him presents a real dilemma, one we might be tempted to resolve in a variety of either/or ways. Either he keeps his commitment to Jairus, or he pauses to help the woman before him who is so obviously suffering. He either helps an important person who can help him further his ministry, or gives help to someone who has no other resource at all.

We see these apparent zero-sum equations in our ministry all the time. The church council meets over the budget and feels the pull between benevolence outside the congregation and the increasing costs of health care for the church's employees. The building's windows need repair, but we know another congregation across town that can barely pay its pastor. The needs "inside" and the needs "outside" always seem in competition.

Individuals feel these tensions as well: people are sandwiched between the needs of aging parents and the needs of small children; parents feel stretched to meet their vocational obligations and spend time with their families; students want to serve others but feel pressed to just get their own work done.

Of course, in the face of Jesus' power, none of these really are either/or propositions, even though they seem like dead ends. In Mark's gospel, Jesus' power is enough to provide new life for both the rich man's daughter and the poor woman. How often do we assume that God's power is not enough to bring life out of the seemingly impossible choices we make? We are challenged to open up the interruptions and hard choices of our lives to Jesus' power to bring life out of death.