



*Sunday, July 21, 2024*  
*9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*





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The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

**Sunday, July 21, 2024 ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

PRELUDE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need  
(RESIGNATION)

American folk tune  
setting, John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.*

**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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

ELW 883

### 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

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Psalm 23

*Read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no  
evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

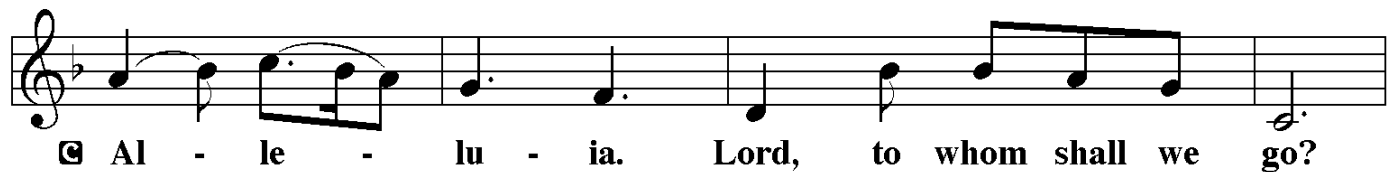
<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

*When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need..*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup> When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup> and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676

## 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 For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace. Merciful God,  
**Receive our prayer.**

#2 For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes: Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony. Merciful God,  
**Receive our prayer.**

#3 For this assembly and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age. 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: David & Lisa, Jeff, Jimmy & Laura, Paige, and Ryan. Bring new life and growth to this congregation and to the ministry of our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

*We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:*

- Dorothy C., grandmother of Eric C, who died on July 8, 2024

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

- Margot, sister-in-law of Mary O, who fell and broke her wrist
- Andy, brother of Mary O., who will have surgery to remove a melanoma on 7/29
- Joan L, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 7/19 to remove an ovarian cyst
- Timothy J, son of Sandy and Mike J, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 7/18

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

Christians, We Have Met to Worship

(HOLY MANNA)

William Moore  
setting, Mark Hayes

Duet: Piano Four-Hands

### OFFERTORY



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



bles - sing. 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  
Shepherd Me, O God  
Thy Holy Wings

ELW 780  
ELW 613

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

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN	Take My Life, That I May Be	ELW 583
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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Doxology Postlude

(OLD HUNDREDTH)

Louis Bourgeois  
setting, Peter Pindar Stearns

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Michael Koncilja, piano

**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).

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New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education  
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Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" Music: American folk tune Arranger: John Carter  
© 1987 in *Folk Hymns for Piano* by Hope Publishing Co.  
"Christians, We Have Met to Worship" Tune: Holy Manna Music: William Moore  
Arranger: Mark Hayes © 2012 Lorenz Publishing Company  
"Doxology Postlude" Music: Louis Bourgeois Arranger: Peter Pindar Stearns  
© 1977 Malcolm Music, Ltd. (adm. Shawnee Press, Inc.)



## **At Rest among Strangers**

The world can be a dangerous place, and we all long for someone, some leader, who will watch over us and protect us from all harm. The prophet Jeremiah issues strong cautions to those who abuse the trust placed in them to care for God's people, and the psalmist sings the praises of the Lord who guards and guides us through life's trials.

But the letter to the Ephesians suggests that lasting safety comes through the healing and reconciling work of Christ, which allows us to share a meal with those we are inclined to regard as enemies, because Christ has "broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." So, in Christ, aliens become citizens and strangers become members of the household of God.

Living into this reality requires all of us to be diligent in our practices with and policies toward all kinds of "strangers and aliens" in our world and in our lives. It means making peace with those whose politics make them strange to us, and creating genuine welcome for the newcomer in our classrooms, workplaces and congregations. It means considering the needs of immigrants and refugees through the lens of Christian faith as well as national identity, and not assuming the two are the same.

The reassuring news this day is that God, unlike so many who hold power in this world, is already reconciling the world to God's own self and us to one another. We enact this new reality each time we pass the peace or come to the Lord's supper, not because we have finally achieved the peace we seek, but because in Christ God's future reign of peace has already broken into our present.