



Sunday, August 4, 2024
11th Sunday after Pentecost



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

Sunday, August 4, 2024 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on “To God Alone on High Be Glory”
(ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR)

John S. Dixon
tune, att. Nicolaus Decius

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus’ feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John’s gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Holy God, you gather us together as your people.

We are created to be brave in the face of our fears.

Help us. Remind us of your mercy. Hear our broken words...

For the days we are afraid to show up

Forgive us.

For the days we are afraid to speak up.

Forgive us.

For the days we are afraid to welcome someone others have ignored.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone else tell theirs.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to be honest.

Forgive us.

For the times when we are afraid to challenge what is accepted.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to follow you.

Forgive us.

Dear friends...

God created you to be loved, to tell the truth, to be free to live the fullness of this life God offers to you. By God's grace you have been saved from every broken promise, every assumption of privilege, every ignored invitation. In the name of Jesus + your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

who rose from the dead

the love of God...

who created us to be hope in a broken world

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

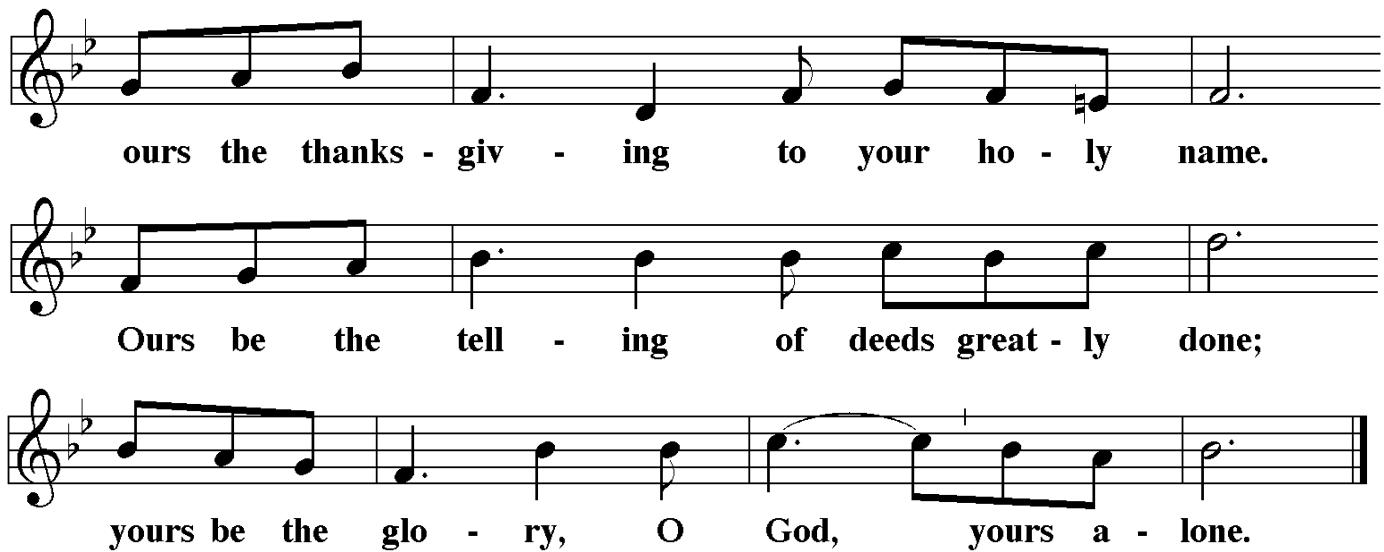
who inspires our hearts to life

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. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he

gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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 John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6: 24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are

looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SERMON PRAYER

Let us pray...Lord God, we who do new things, sometimes feel afraid,
So make us brave

We who live this life as a full gift from you, are often challenged,
So make us authentic.

We who serve others, sometimes are held back,
So make us free.

We who trouble the systems of this world as it is, invite anger.
So make us disruptive.

Now send us out created to be your disciples in the world that we may tell the story of your love.

Amen.

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 Holy God, you create us to be your people. You search us and know us and call us by name. We come this day with the joys and challenges that surround us in this life. We are thankful for friendships and moments of reconnection with others, with ourselves, and with you. Thank you for creating us to be brave in the face of our fears. Merciful God,
Hear our prayer

#2 You are always ready to welcome us and expect us to come as we are now, today, at this moment. You invite us to come to you without the masks we wear for the world. You welcome us despite our mistakes, missteps, misjudgments, and misunderstandings. You encourage us to reveal our authentic selves so that we may live in the fullness of your creative glory. Help us to speak when others are silent. Help us to meet the needs others ignore. Thank you for creating us to be authentic in a world that offers masks and mirrors to deceive us and each other. Merciful God,

Hear our prayer

#3 Gracious God, you create us to be free. By your death on the cross and your resurrection you give us freedom to not do anything we want to do, but you create us to be free to serve each other with love. Without the world's rules or obligations or expectations, we are free to live our lives for you. By your love, you free us to be everything you want us to be. Thank you for creating us to be free from all that holds us back for your promise of life. Merciful God,

Hear our prayer

#4 You call us to follow your example of disruption, that we might learn a new and better way to live in this world together. Out of your deep love for us, you disrupt the old systems of corruption, racism, sexism, and greed to awaken in us the recognition of the worth and dignity of each person created in your image. Thank you for creating us to be disruptive at tables where injustice and inequality are revealed. Merciful God,

Hear our prayer

#5 Teach us to follow your example. In you we are created to be brave, live authentic lives, serve freely, and follow your footsteps of disruption. Send us out to be disciples, reflecting your love to all the world. Merciful God,

Hear 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: Kevin & Kristina (Alison, Elizabeth, Josie, Marilyn), Olaf, Jim & Renee, Katy, Joshua, and Robert. Bring new life and growth to this congregation and to the ministry of our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe.

Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you are near to all who call upon you.

We give thanks for people who serve faithfully, especially:

- Lt Daniel Bucchin, son of Mary Osgood's cousin, Jessie, who has been deployed and will serve in the Sudan until May 2025

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

- Jim A., brother of Tom A., who died suddenly on July 28, 2024
- Karen B., who died on July 27, 2024
- Gary, friend of Jim B., who died on July 24, 2024

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Frank, 105 year old friend of Kathy M., who is recovering from a wrist fracture
- Bill M., from Learning Links, who will have a procedure on August 5
- Ken, brother-in-law of Linda M., who will have surgery
- Alex M., son of Linda M., who is undergoing heart testing
- Tim J., son of Mike and Sandy J., who begins treatment for lymphoma
- Kathy S, who is healing after tearing her rotator cuff
- Arlys S., aunt of Pastor Amy, who is recovering after surgery for a broken hip
- Lisa R as she transitions to nursing care at St. Ann's Home and continues healing from recent falls
- 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

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.

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Minuet in D Minor, BWV Anh. 132

Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

Holy God, we praise you.

Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world;

for your promises to your people Israel,

and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary,

Jesus creates us to be.

Eating with sinners,

Jesus creates us to be brave.

Guiding his children

Jesus creates us to be authentic.

Visiting the sick,
Jesus creates us to be free.

Dying on the cross,
Jesus creates us to be disruptive.

Rising from the dead,
Jesus creates us to be disciples.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion of the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith; encourage us in hope; inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful. 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

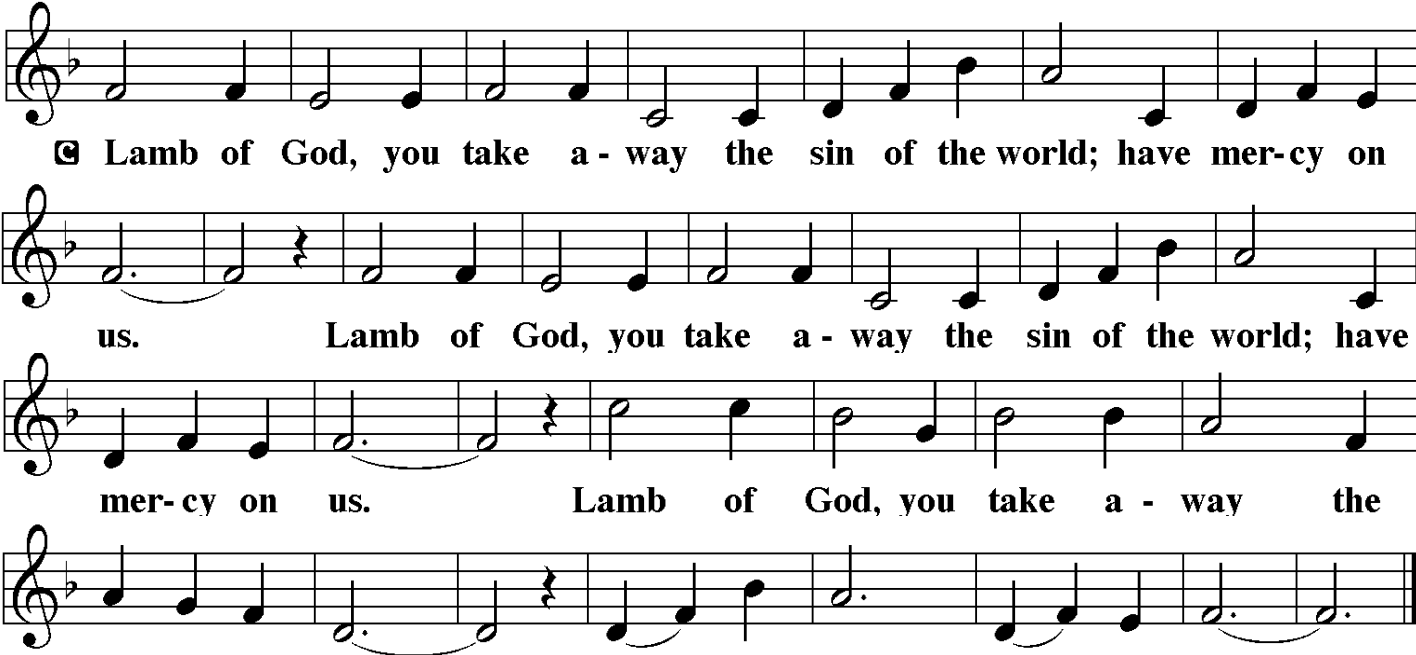
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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 HYMN

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

What Feast of Love

ELW 487

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	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing	ELW 545
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DISMISSAL

You are created to be brave.

You are created to be authentic.

You are created to be free.

You are created to be disruptive.

Now send us out created to be your disciples in the world.

That we may tell the story of your love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Sicilian Mariners”

(Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing)

Alfred V. Fedak
tune, 18th-cent. Sicilian

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Madeleine Hoffman, 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 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. 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 or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Pastor Amy is on vacation through August 11. Pastor Hoffman is on vacation from August 5-11. Please contact the church office (585-223-0634 or office@blcfairport.org) or Pastor Jeff Hedin if you need pastoral assistance during this time.

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Chorale Prelude on "To God Alone on High Be Glory", Music: John S. Dixon, Tune: att. Nicolaus Decius

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"Minuet in D Minor", BWV Anh. 132, Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

"Postlude on Sicilian Mariners", Music: Alfred V. Fedak, Tune: Traditional Sicilian, 18th cent.

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Rollin' in the Dough—and Fishes

In recent years many books have been printed that focus on baking vast assortments of breads—from rye to pumpernickel, French to Italian. Today, however, we encounter a bread that points to both a deeper longing, physically and spiritually, and an even more fulfilling outcome than the tastiest assortment of baked bread. This abundance of bread satisfies hunger, transforms lives, and ushers in a new vision of the holy in community. Recognizing the power of action, John calls to mind the ways prophets fed and nourished the people, and then he multiplies this in the person and action of Jesus. Jesus uses earthly gifts to provide for the gathered community—the gospel's vision of Jesus' life and God's abundance in creation. Second Kings and John allow our congregations to wonder with the faithful servants and disciples how God will provide. We are invited into a conversation that might start by reflecting on a sentence written by the late United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld: "Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back." The scriptures today open a door for us to think about how individuals and communities are nourished and sustained by God, and also imagine how we become vessels of the holy who are now opened to the call of service. How might ordinary gifts (and ordinary people) become the ways God's love and mercy are multiplied in sustenance for neighbor, community, and world? Through our questions, our acts of giving, and our proclamation of the works of God in Christ Jesus, we are invited to experience what it means to be rooted in God's sustaining love and to proclaim this God who invites us into the unimaginable vision of abundance.