

Sunday, August 11, 2024
12th 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 11, 2024 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
(LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN)

Georg G. Boltze
setting, Richard Hillert

Jesus, Still Lead On
(SEELENBRÄUTIGAM)

Adam Drese
setting, Paul Manz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

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

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

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. Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

⁴[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





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

GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

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

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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 We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. 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: Charlyne & David, Christine & Mike, Peter, Sam, Sydney, and Marianne & 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.

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

We pray for those who serve, especially:

- Zaii M as she begins basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes

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

- Ed B, who died after a very short illness with acute leukemia on August 3
- Jim A., brother of Tom A., who died suddenly on July 28
- Karen B., who died on July 27
- Gary, friend of Jim B., who died on July 24

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Frank, 106 year old friend of Kathy M., who is recovering from a wrist fracture
- Bill M., from Learning Links, who is recovering from a procedure on Aug. 5
- Alex M., son of Linda M., who is undergoing heart testing
- Tim J., son of Mike and Sandy J., who begins treatment for lymphoma
- Arlys S., aunt of Pastor Amy, who is recovering after surgery for a broken hip

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

We Are Loved

The Avett Brothers

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 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

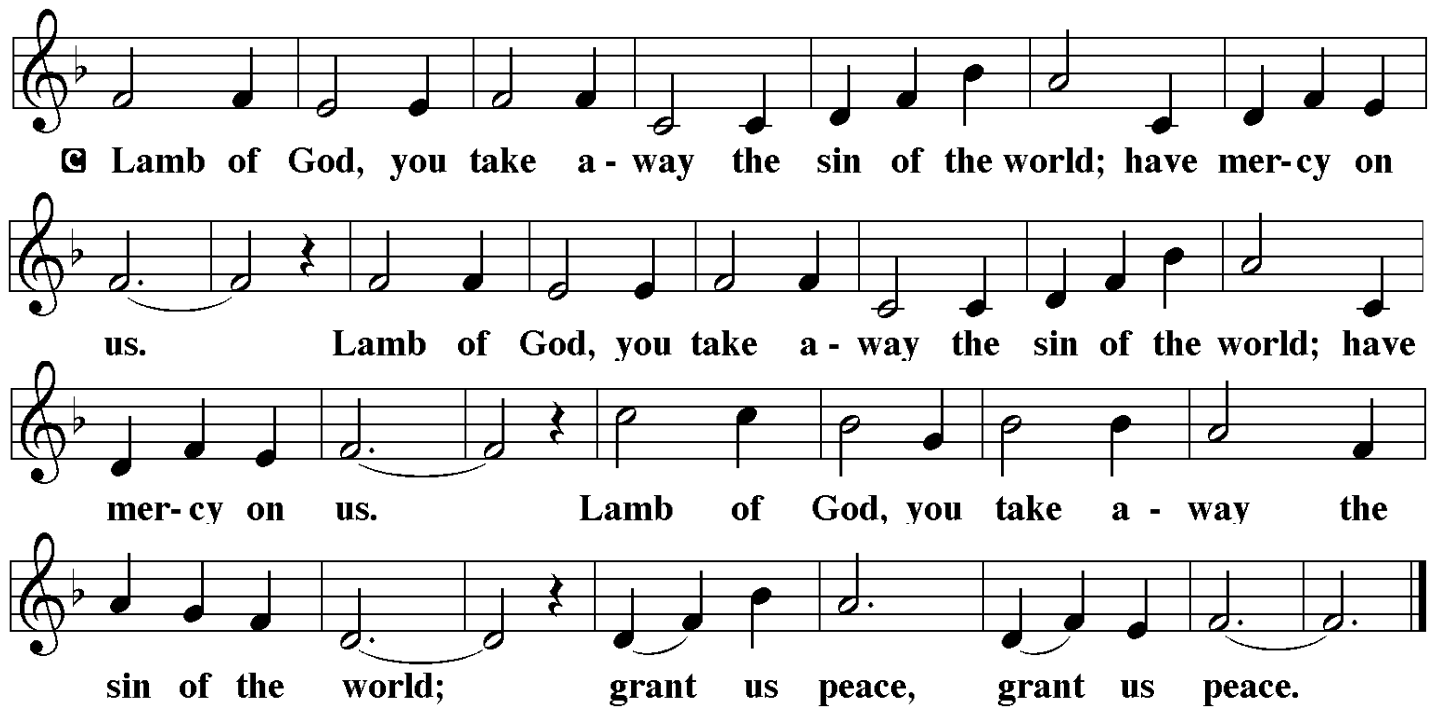
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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.

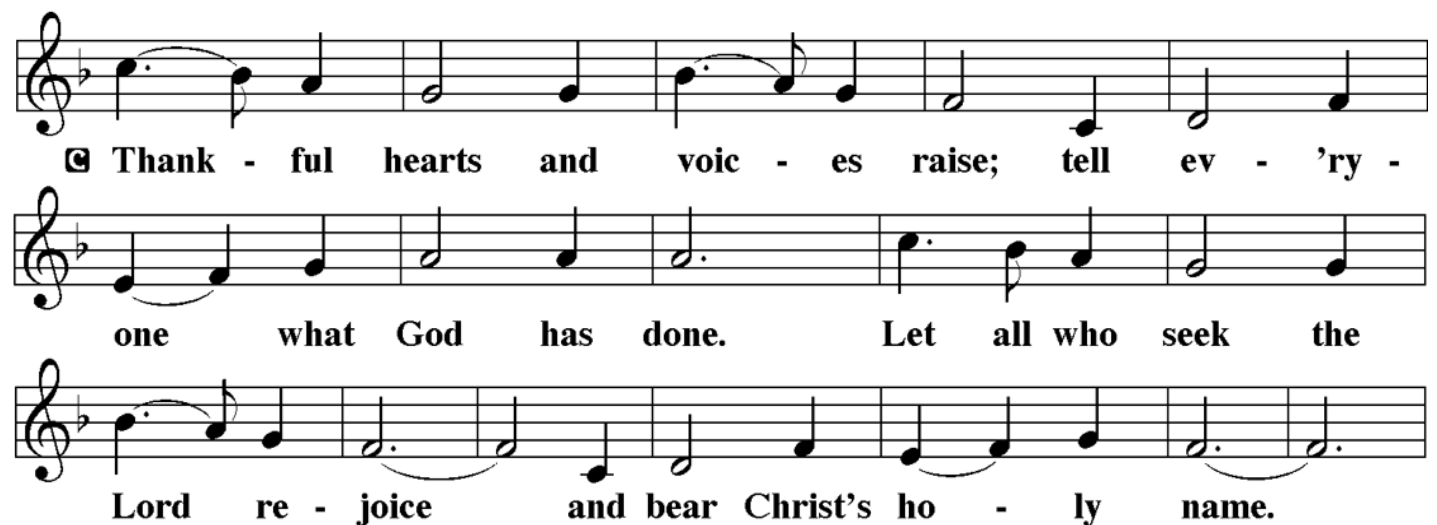
COMMUNION HYMN

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 492
ELW 464

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	Praise and Thanksgiving	ELW 689
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe, op. 934

Carson P. Cooman

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Susan DePasquale, organ

Donna Berner, vocals

James Berner, guitar and vocals

Thank you Pastor John Macholz for bringing us the word of God and serving as our presiding minister this morning. Pastor Macholz is a long-time friend of Bethlehem and previously served as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA. Please join us in thanking Pastor Macholz for his worship leadership today.

Thank you to Susan DePasquale for serving as our guest organist today.

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 from July 29 – August 11. Please contact Pastor Hoffman if you need pastoral assistance during this time. Contact her directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org.

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"Jesus, Still Lead On", Music: Adam Drese, Arranger: Pal Manz
© 1962 Concordia Publishing House
"We Are Loved", Music: The Avett Brothers, Album release date: May 17, 2024
"Hornpipe" – Opus 934, Music: Carson P. Cooman, © 2013 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

The Greatest Bread

Jesus uses the image of bread to demonstrate that, even compared to all the great things God has done before, God's greatest miracle is in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus, the bread of life, is a greater miracle than the manna God sent in the desert (Exod. 16:14), greater than the bread the angel brought to restore Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-8), greater even than the loaves Jesus had just multiplied to feed a crowd of more than five thousand people (John 6:1-14)! In Jesus, God gives bread for the journey—not only for this life, but also into eternal life.

We're so familiar with this image that it loses some of its original power. But the claim Jesus is making here is a radical one—and a dangerous one. To Jesus' original audience, his claim to be the bread from heaven, the Son of God, must have sounded like outrageous blasphemy. "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?" they say. "How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (John 6:42). Who does this guy think he is?

Jesus' message is both outrageous and outrageously comforting: anyone who eats this bread will live forever. The Son of God meets us in this life and gives us real and certain hope for eternal life. Normal bread is amazing in its own right; manna is miraculous. But Jesus Christ is the true bread and the greatest miracle of all. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8).