



*Continue  
in my word*

JOHN 8:31

*Sunday, October 27, 2024  
Reformation Sunday*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)

## **PRELUDE**

O Gott, du frommer Gott, op. 122, no.7  
(O God, My Faithful God)

Johannes Brahms

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

## **GATHERING**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	<b>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</b>	<b>ELW 504</b>
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descant, Richard DePasquale

### **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**

Fantasia on “Ebenezer”  
(Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness)

tune, Thomas J. Williams  
setting, Tammy Waldrop

The Chancel Bells

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christ Is Our Cornerstone**

Cantors: st. 1

All: sts, 2, 3, 1

C F G sus4 G C F G sus4 G

Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build; With  
 O then with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring; Our  
 Here may we gain from Heav'n, The grace which we im - plore; And

A min G F C F G sus4 G A min G

His true saints a - lone The courts of Heav'n are filled; On His great  
 voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing; And thus pro -  
 may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more; Un - til that

F C F G/B C F G sus4 G C

love our hopes we place Of pre - sent grace and joys a - bove.  
 claim in joy - ful song Both loud and long, that glor - ious name.  
 day when all the blest To end - less rest are called a - way.

Text: Anon. c. 500-600; tr. John Chandler  
 © 2012 Wilbur Music (wilburmusic.com)

Music: Gregory D. Wilbur

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.*

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#2 Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#3 Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, your Son, Jesus, blessed children and called us to be like them. Help us to better know and care for these children, youth and young adults: Emmett, Evan, Ethan, Eva, and Evan. Strengthen the connections we share with the ministries we serve, especially the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are near to all who call upon you.

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

- John C, father of Steve C, who died on 10/17
- Mary R, mother of Anne S, who died on 10/11

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

- David O who recovering at home following a recent hospitalization
- Barb K, former member of BLC, who had successful heart surgery on 10/18
- Art W, who is recovering following a broken leg
- Karen A, who is hospitalized following surgery
- Ros. S who is recovering from anticipated surgery on October 24

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

*Silence for individual prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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**

*Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share.*

*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) or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.*





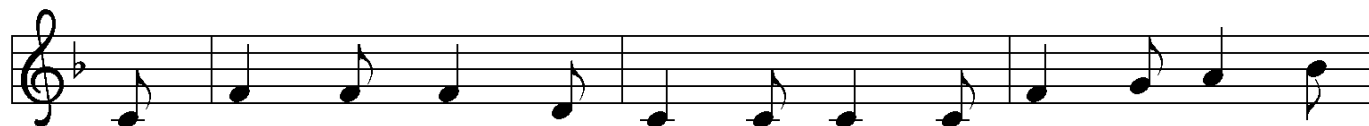
## OFFERING OF MUSIC

So the Love of God

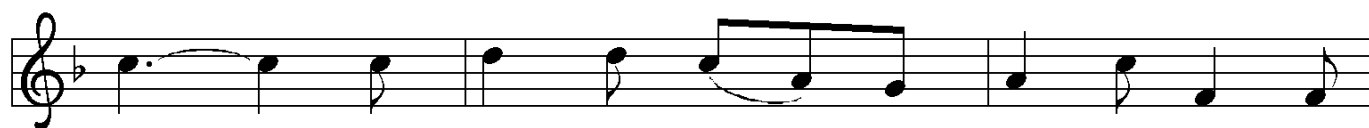
Dan Schutte

### The Chancel Choir

#### OFFERTORY



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,  
**source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us  
to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. 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

Lord Jesus, you are resurrection and life.

**We give thanks that at your table you fill us with good things and feed us from your abundance.**

Pour out your Spirit on us and this feast of love.

**Build us into a lasting community that embodies your love. Strengthen us to serve you in all we do. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

**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

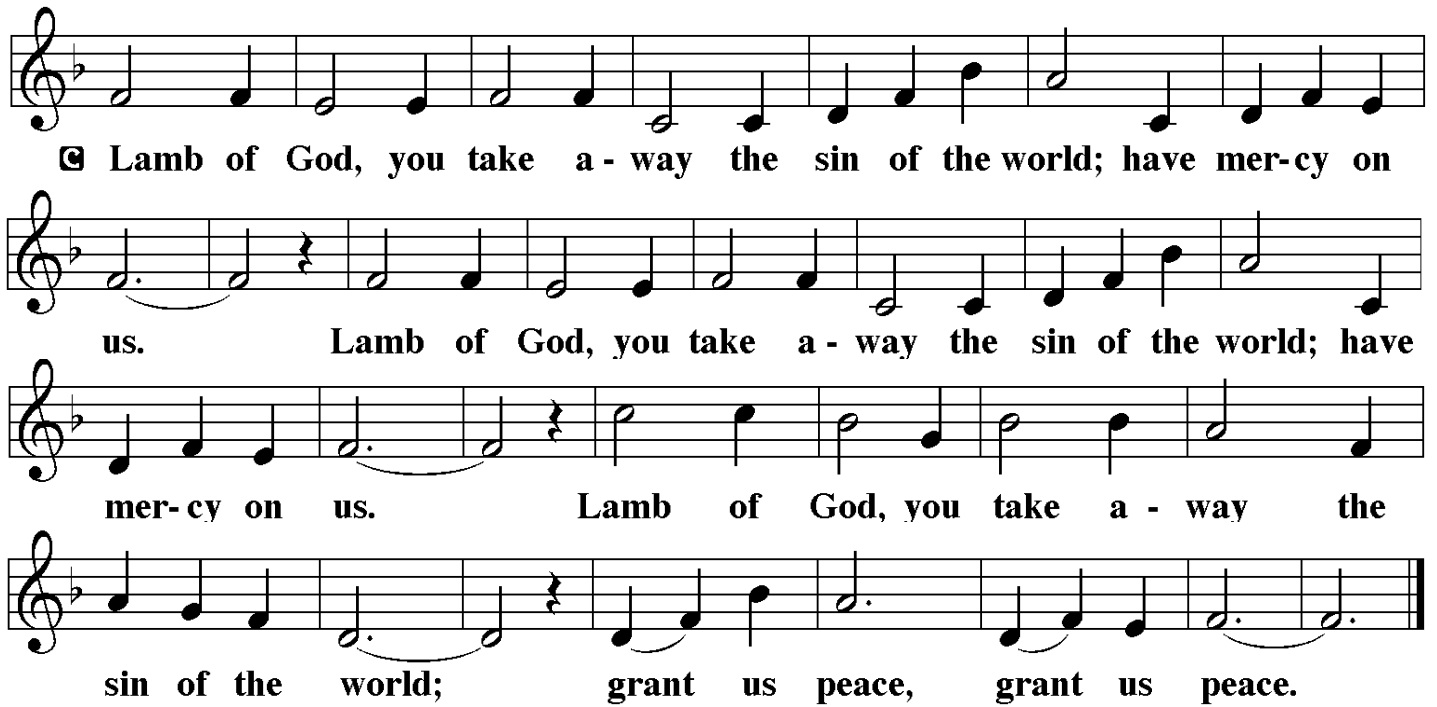
Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God

**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

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

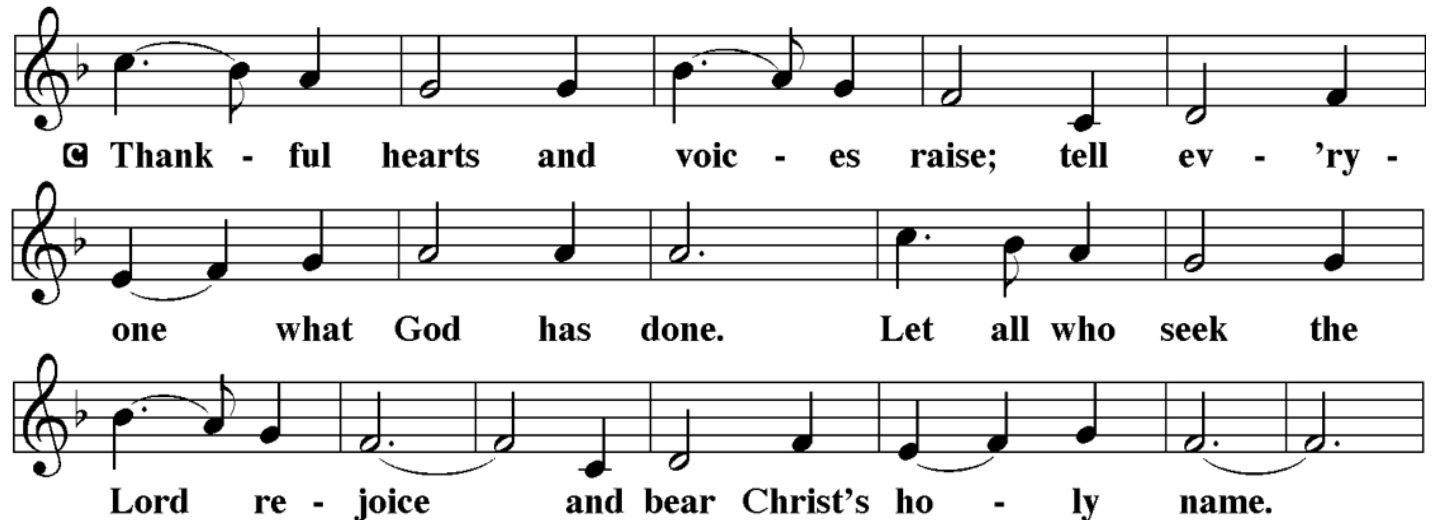
ELW 517

That Priceless Grace

ELW 591

## 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, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless † be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	Now Thank We All Our God	ELW 840
		descant, Mark Shepperd

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

Nun danket alle Gott, op. 65, no. 59  
 (Now Thank We All Our God)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## **BLC Pastors**

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

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

BLC Children's Choir

Sue Cardinal, flute

Jane Morale, violin

Neil Vokes, percussion

Richard DePasquale, trumpet

Rich Towsley, guitar

Glen Zagorski, guitar

**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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"Now Thank We All Our God" – NUN DANKET, Descant: Mark Shepperd, © 1989 Lorenz Publishing Co

"Nun danket alle Gott" – op. 65, no. 59, Music: Sigfrid Karg-Elert



## **BLC Music Groups Rehearsals**

Children's Choir- Sundays at 10:15am  
Chancel Bells- Wednesdays at 6pm  
Folk Group- Wednesdays at 6:15pm  
Chancel Choir- Wednesdays at 7:30pm  
Dulcimers- Fridays at 3pm



## ***BLC Quilters***

*1st & 3rd Thurs each  
month: Cut, Sort, Sew  
5th Thurs: Quilt Tying  
7 PM*

***Join BLC's email list  
to receive our weekly  
STAR e-newsletter  
and other  
announcements!***



**between sundays** 



Find episodes of our  
podcast here! 



## **PLEASE NOTE**



**BLC's Annual Meeting is TODAY, Sunday October 27, at 10:15 AM  
(immediately following the Sunday service). Please plan on attending!**



## **Not Ashamed**

In many congregations, Reformation Sunday is treated as a sort of “Lutheran heritage” day, a time for singing chorales and remembering the theological reforms of the sixteenth century that gave birth to Lutheranism. In other parishes, a greater focus is placed on the church’s need for continual reform; the church’s history is secondary to an emphasis on the issues and needs of the church today. Both approaches have much to commend them.

But the true center of this day is found in the appointed readings. In Jeremiah we are reminded of a new covenant and the promise that God will forgive, the promise written on our hearts. In Romans 3:23 Paul brings the full force of the law to bear on our lives: “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” With this reality, how can we have any hope apart from divine grace? Finally, in the gospel reading from John we are reminded that our freedom comes from Christ alone. We are neither bound to the past nor slaves to our anxieties of the present.

Psalms 46 brings all of this together with the powerful proclamation: “God is our refuge and strength.” The God we know in the person of Jesus is the one we can turn to in times of crisis, the one we call upon in times of fear, the one we trust to pour out mercy and forgiveness upon us. This Jesus is our solid foundation. In a world of chaos, confusion, and change there is a constant: the enduring and life-giving grace of God.

On Reformation Sunday—as every Sunday—we remember that we are not ashamed of this good news, this gospel.