



*Sunday, November 3, 2024*  
*All Saints Sunday*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### ***For Those Worshipping Virtually***

*Bethlehem Lutheran has a tradition of lighting candles on the Sunday that we celebrate All Saints. These candles serve as a remembrance of saints who live the faith in our midst today as well as loved ones who have died. We invite you to bring a candle into your worship space at home today and leave it unlit as we begin worship. There will be an opportunity during today's service for you to light this candle.*

## PRELUDE

Prelude in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

from *Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major*, BWV 1012 (adapt. for viola)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Revelation looks forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Christ's everlasting feast to come.*

## 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>	For All the Saints	ELW 422
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Stanzas 1, 2: All

3: Choir

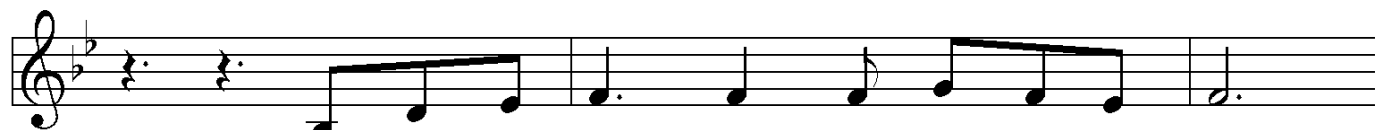
6, 7: All

### 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



**G** Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



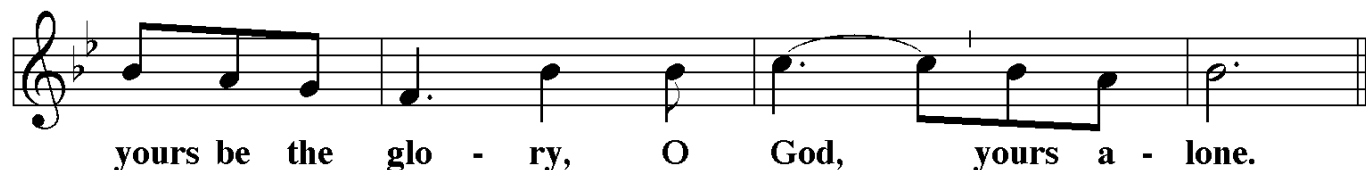
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



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



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



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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: Revelation 21:1-6a**

*Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.*

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6a</sup> Then

he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

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 11:32-44

*Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.*

<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound

with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### *For all the saints . . .*

*Today, we give thanks to God for all those who live the faith and those who have died in Christ. We thank God for all the ways that they have shared God’s love with us and passed along the faith to us. This morning, you are invited to light a candle (please remember to light the candles back to front) to remember a saint in your life and give thanks for the light of Christ that was revealed through them. Dip the match down into the glass to light the candle. If you need help, a hospitality team member will assist you. As we worship, we remember that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, and that through baptism, we are forever a part of God’s family and one another’s lives.*

### **HYMNS AND MUSIC FOR THE CANDLE LIGHTING**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer	(sung 3 times)	ELW 751
Sarabande		J. S. Bach
from <i>Cello Suite No. 6</i> (adapt. for viola)		
Jerusalem, My Happy Home		ELW 628

## 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 O God of resurrection, you call us by name and raise us to life. Rouse your church from slumber. Where we have held back in fear or shame, unbind us. Embolden us in our proclamation of your good news, that all may know abundant life. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#2 O God of creation, you have founded your world on rivers and seas. Preserve fresh water sources and the creatures who call them home. Heal places of pollution and nourish places of drought. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#3 O God of the earth, you reign over all nations and peoples. Inspire us with wisdom and discernment as we elect legislators and leaders. May they govern with justice and uphold the dignity of all people. 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: Finnegan, Grace, Grady, Griffin, and Ilana. 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. Today we remember the saints known and loved by this community of faith who have died in the past year.

*A bell will be intoned to mark the beginning and end of a minute of silence to remember our siblings in Christ at Bethlehem who have died since All Saints' Day 2023, as well as those remembered by family and friends of the Bethlehem community.*



Bryce, friend of Paige Harman  
Gary, friend of Jim Berner  
Jai, daughter of Jim and Jane, friends of John and Paulette Costanza  
Wayne, father-in-law of Mary Osgood  
Jim Adams, brother of Tom Adams  
Cathy Anderson  
Paul Anderson, friend of Carla Vossler  
Matt B, friend of Chris Meetze  
Edward Bangel  
Brian Benamati, good friend of David Gerhardt  
Karen Bigenwald  
Jan Brederson  
Elaine Bucci, sister of Al Boezi  
Diane Bush, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
Barbara Chasse, mother-in-law of Linda Juers' daughter, Diane  
Dorothy Coffaro, grandmother of Eric Coffaro  
Barbara Cowles, friend of Ros. and Larry Siegel  
Jean Dean, sister of Ros. Siegel  
Bob Dilger, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
Connie Dilger, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
Clifford Donahower  
Anna Drennan, aunt of John Costanza  
Ruth Edlund, aunt of Pastor Amy  
Christopher Fetzeck, nephew of Rich and Sue Towsley  
Bob Frack, family friend of Ruth Gates  
Clarence Gerhardt, father of David Gerhardt  
Patricia Goetz, mother of Glen Zagorski  
Donald Groff  
Lisa H, sister of Lori Nickoloff  
Ray Harkin, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
Warren Heilbronner, friend of Kathy and Jim Moragne  
Erich Helbig  
Terri Hynes, friend of Mike Joyce  
Jim K, godfather of Roger Kolker  
Diane Keep, mother of Kelly Runke, grandmother of Andrew, Allison and  
    Aaron Runke  
Peter Marron, brother-in-law of Pat Egbert  
Jack Meetze, uncle of Chris Meetze  
David Meier, brother of Ron Meier

Richard Merges, father of Dave Merges  
James A. "Jim" Micheels  
Karen Moses Moss, sister-in-law of Pat Egbert  
Reverend Betsy Mowry, friend of MJ Burke  
Abdullahi Muya, brother of Zaii Muya  
William D. Nottingham, cousin of Becki Purvis  
Monica Platania  
Andy Plank, high school friend of Ruth Gates  
Mrs. Violet Price, dear friend of Tom and Karen Allen  
John Provazza, grandfather of Sarah Morrissette  
Joann Rabot, cousin of Bob Purvis  
Maurice "Morey" Rasbeck  
Dale Raymond  
Don Raun, uncle of Pastor Amy  
Reverend Emily Richards, friend of Pastor Amy and Hans Walter-Peterson  
Jim Roe, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
Marggy Schoenberger, cousin of Ruth Gates  
Joanne Sasse  
Gary Scialdone  
Michael Sick, nephew of Jeff DeVoesick  
Janet Simon  
Mary Stephens  
Albert Walter Sumell Jr.  
Craig T, colleague of Hans Walter-Peterson  
Denise Taylor  
Gerald "Jerry" Thompson  
Jim Todd, brother-in-law of Sue Towsley  
Lowell Twitchell, friend of Janet and Howard Sharp  
David Tyler, son-in-law of Babe and Ginne Wacenske  
Barbara Wagner, grandmother of Chris Miller  
Frank White, friend of Kathy and Jim Moragne  
Edward Williams, nephew of Ginny Schumacher  
Elizabeth Winters, friend of Ruth and Jeff Hedin  
Matthew Zagorski, nephew of Glen Zagorski

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

- John C, father of Steve C, who died on 10/17

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

- Julie O who fell and broke her kneecap
- Ros. S who is recovering from surgery
- Marcy M, sister-in-law of Donna and Jim B, who is hospitalized with medical concerns

*We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of:*

- Samuel Adam, great nephew of Lisa M, born on 10/21

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

Saints Bound for Heaven

(SAINTS BOUND FOR HEAVEN)

(PROMISED LAND)

words, P. Cartwright / S. Stennet

tune, J. King and Wm. Walker

Traditional American melody

arr. Lloyd Larson

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **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**

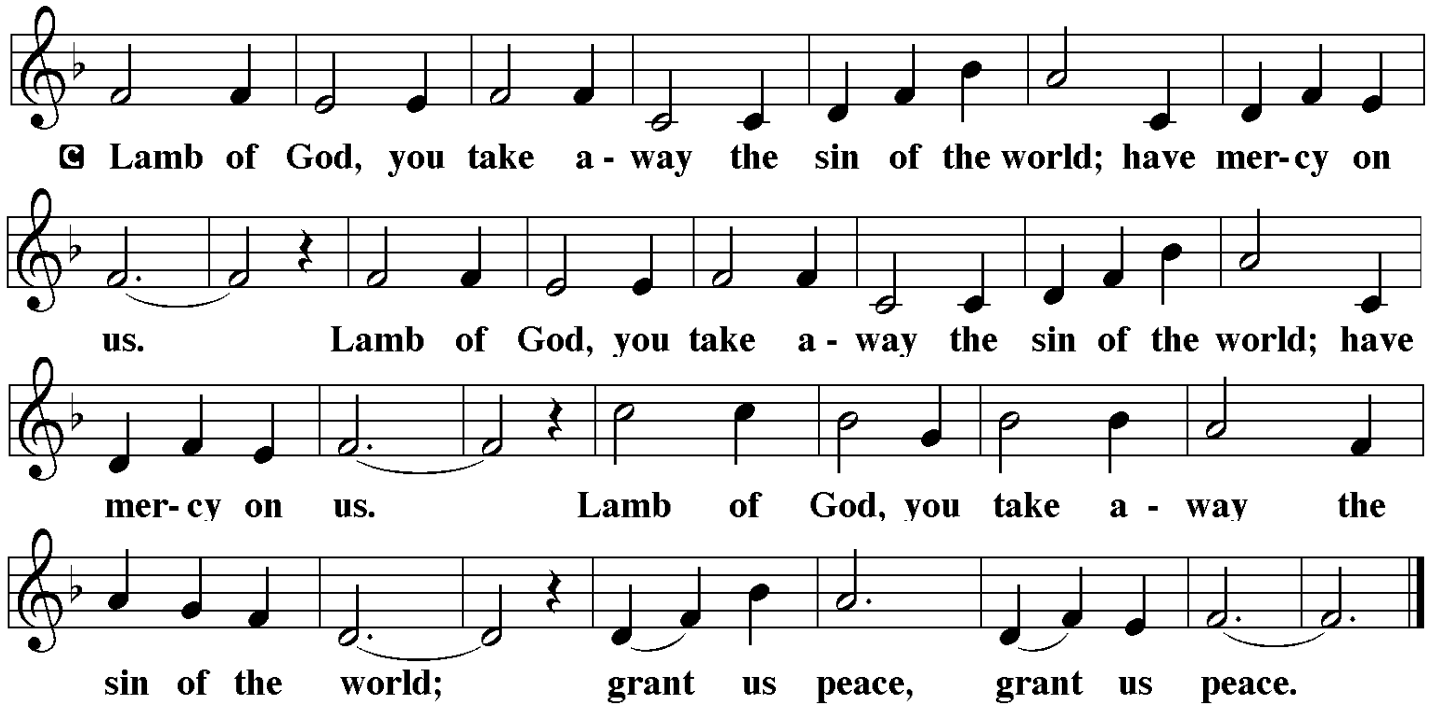
Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

**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 HYMN**

Deep River

ACS 951

# Deep River

*Refrain*

Deep riv - er, my home is o - ver Jor - dan,

deep riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o-ver in-to camp-ground.

1 Oh, don't you want to go to that gos - pel feast, that  
2 Oh, when I get to heav-en, I'll . . . take my seat, and

prom - ised land where all is peace? Oh,  
cast my crown at Je - sus' feet. Oh,

*Refrain*

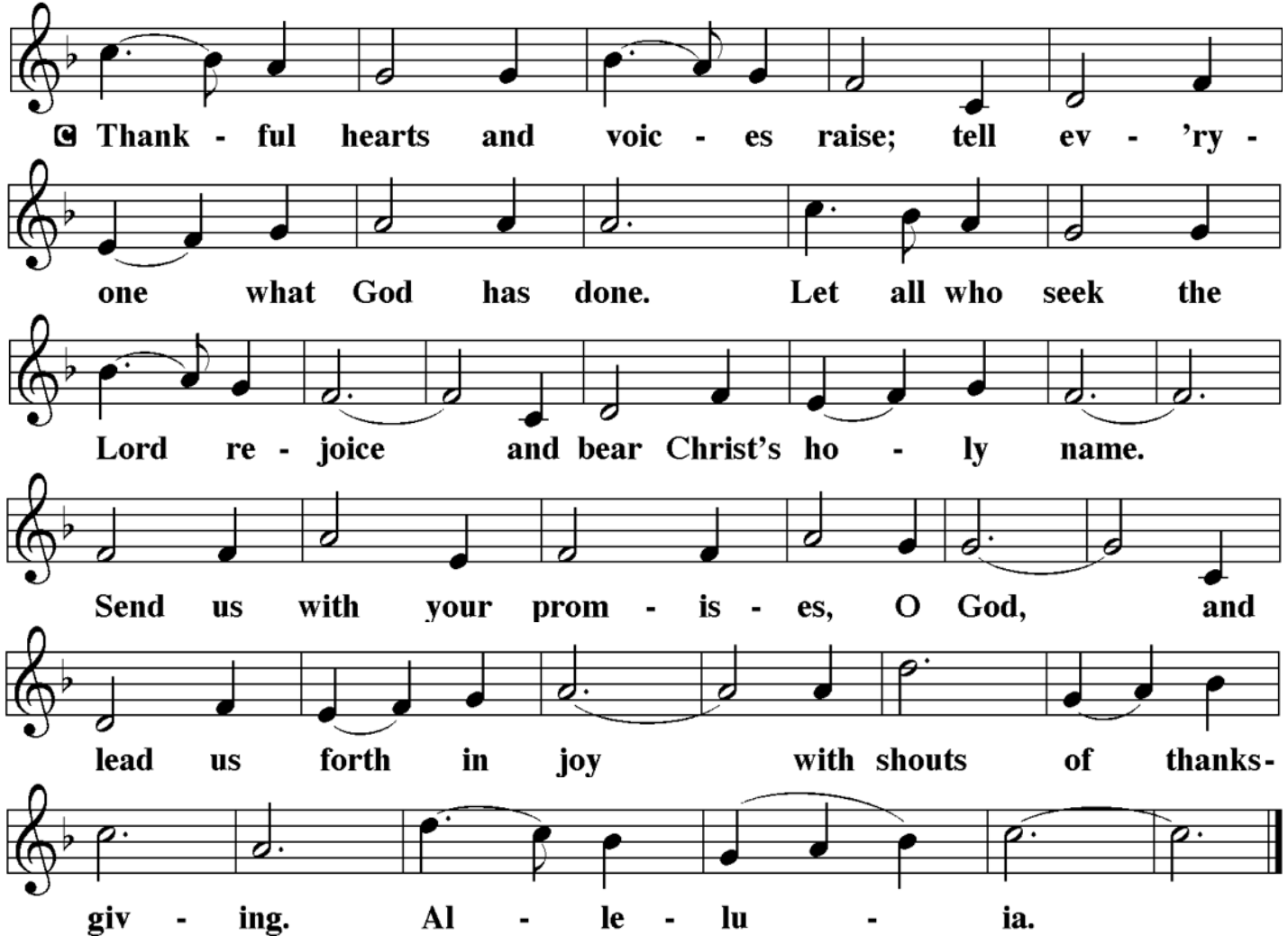
## COMMUNION HYMNS

Shall We Gather at the River  
Sing with All the Saints in Glory

ELW 423  
ELW 426

## 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.**

SENDING HYMN

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

ELW 424



**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 556

Johann Sebastian Bach

## **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

**Thank you** to Rita Monahan, guest violist, for assisting us with today's worship.

**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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"Saints Bound for Heaven" Words: attr. to Peter Cartwright and Samuel Stennett; Tune: Saints Bound for Heaven – J. King and Wm. Walker

Tune: Promised Land – Traditional American melody; Arranger: Lloyd Larson © 2014 Lorenz Publishing Company



## Unbinding the Living

On All Saints Sunday we remember loved ones who have been laid in the tomb. We know the acute grief of Mary, Martha, and Jesus. We know the reality of death that lies so close. We know that at any moment the phone call could come with news we dread. We live forever in the shadow of death.

At the same time, we also know the little deaths that take place every day. We know the daily disappointments, the betrayal of a friend, a failure at work, a difficult and tumultuous marriage, the loneliness and pain of one longing for something more from life. Beyond that there are the near-constant reminders that much of this world is far from God's kingdom. How easy it is to look and see poverty and injustice, disease and despair all around. Like Lazarus, we are bound tightly in death's clothes: grief, disappointment, hopelessness.

Yet Jesus speaks the last word for us: "Unbind him, and let him go" (John 11:44). This promise is bursting with resurrecting life. This word is spoken by the one who became human and was put in a tomb, but broke through the pervasive stench of death. In the waters of the font, we hear our God speak this word to us. Lifting us out of the waters, God frees us from the binding rags of death and dresses us in the royal clothing of Christ. At the table, we feast with the God in whom we have waited, the God who swallows up death forever. The last word is not death, but life as a beloved child of God.

Clothed in the righteousness of Christ, God's people are called forth from the grave. Fellow saints rush forward to remove the rotting grave clothes. Together the people of God celebrate the hope and promise of resurrection, rising each new day to joyfully serve in the name of the one who is beyond death, Jesus our Savior.