

Blessed are you
LUKE 6:22



Sunday, February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

Partita on “Terra Beata”
(This Is My Father’s World)

Raymond H. Haan
tune, Traditional English / adapt. F. Sheppard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ares” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, How Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

D G A G D

1 Oh, how blessed are the poor in spir - it;
 2 Oh, how blessed are the meek and hum - ble;
 3 Oh, how blessed are the mer - cy giv - ers;
 4 Oh, how blessed are the true peace - mak - ers;

Em7 D Em A7 D

theirs is the king - dom of heav - en. And how blessed are the
 they will in - her - it the earth. And how blessed those who
 such mer - cy they will re - ceive. And how blessed are the
 they will be known as God's chil - dren. And how blessed those who

G A G D Em7 A D

sad and mourn - ful; they'll be con - soled by God.
 hun - ger for good - ness; they all will feast with God.
 pure in heart; they sure - ly will see God.
 suf - fer for jus - tice; they will be hon - ored by God.

Refrain
 G D Bm Em A D

Blessed and hap - py we shall be. Lis - ten to the Mas - ter's word!

G D F#m Bm G A7 D

Soon the king - dom's com - ing—watch and see: the king - dom of the Lord!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cantad al Señor

(Oh, Sing to the Lord)

Kevin McChesney
tune, Brazilian folk song

The Chancel Bells

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: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.” The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Cantor: st. 1/*Refrain*All: REPEAT st. 1/*Ref.* st. 2/*Ref.* st. 3/*Ref.* + *Coda*

May This Church Be like a Tree

Que esta iglesia sea un árbol

1 *Que es-ta i - gle - sia se - a un ár - bol en el*
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
 2 May this church be like a tree there in the
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - do de tu ca - sa, que ha - ya fes - ta, ya - le -
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



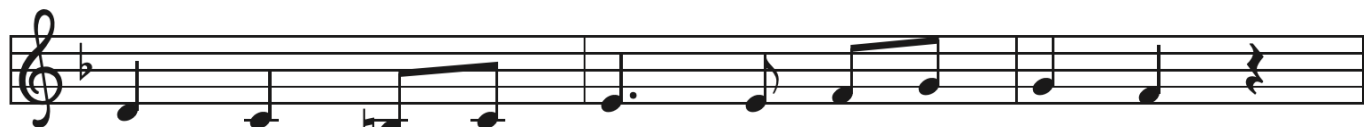
grí - a y o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its

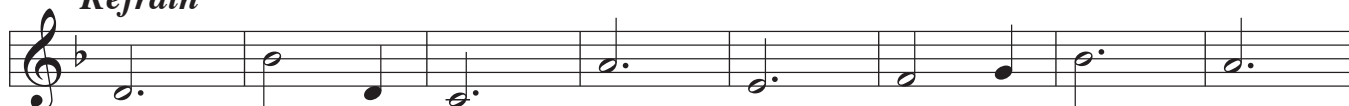


ha - cia el cie - lo, que es - ta i - gle - sia sea fe -
high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.
jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain



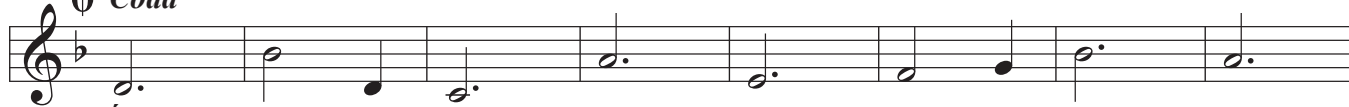
Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,

D.C. to stanzas



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

⊕ Coda



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

#1 Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

#2 Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love.

God of grace.

hear our prayer.

#3 Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, in this season when we celebrate your presence among us, help us to better know and care for these children, youth and young adults: Alexander, Alison, Andrew, Allison, and Anna. Strengthen the connections we share with the ministries we serve, especially the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God of grace.

hear our prayer.

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

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

- Helen D, mother of JoAnn S, who died on 2/3

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Ken, brother-in-law of Linda M, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 2/14
- Chris M, who is scheduled for surgery on 2/17

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God of grace.

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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



OFFERING OF MUSIC

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

(Jamaican folk melody)

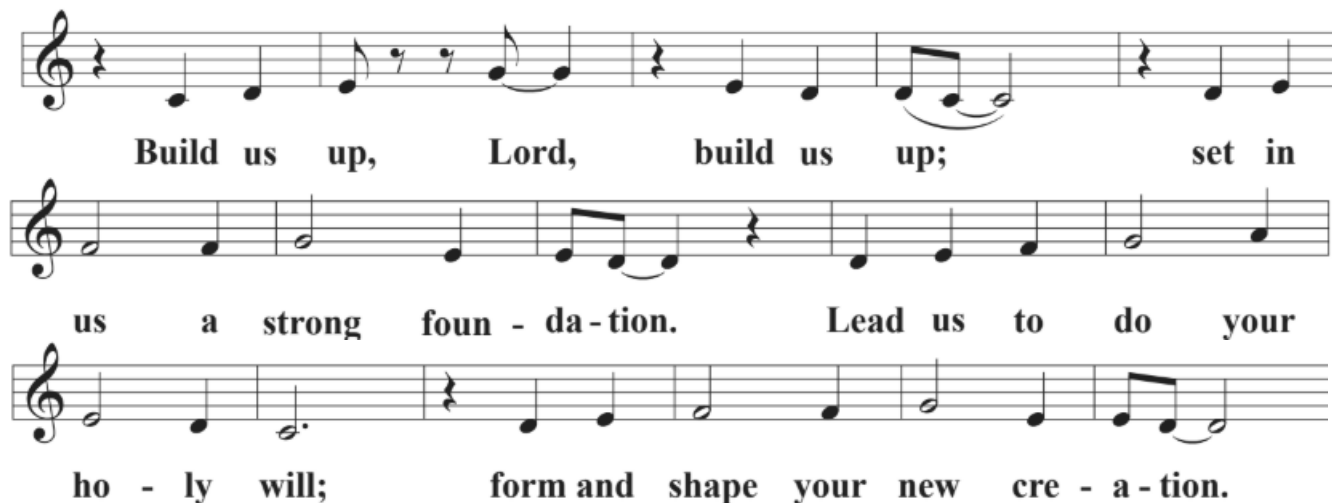
text, Fred Kaan

music, adapt. Doreen Potter

arr. Bradley Ellingboe

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
 guide and teach each oth-er, help us to share your love with the
 world: ev-'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth-er.
 Grow-ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king-dom; we fol-low in
 faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your
 word to spread the news of your Son!

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 our joy. . . we praise your name and join their
 unending hymn:



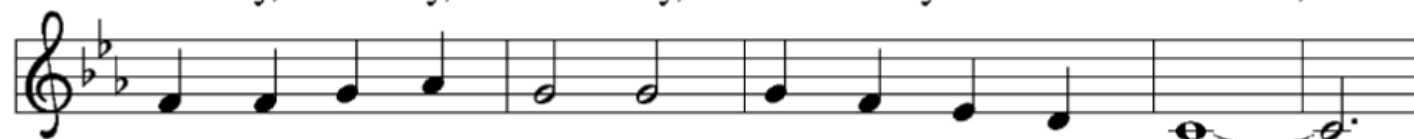
San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

HYMN AND MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

ELW 484

Karen Lafferty

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Canticle of the Turning	ELW 723
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Sicilian Mariners”
(Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing)

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

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:

Cantor: Donna Berner

Flute: Sue Cardinal

Guitar: James Berner, Rich Towsley

Percussion: Margie Gaul, Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

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: 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 or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

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Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
"Partita on terra beata" – (This Is My Father's World) Tune: Traditional English / adapt. F. Sheppard; Music: Raymond H. Haan
© 1994 Concordia Publishing House
"Oh, How Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit" Words and Music: Richard Avery and Donald Marsh © 1979 by Hope Publishing Company
Cantad al Señor – (Oh, Sing to the Lord) Tune: Brazilian folk song; Music: Kevin McChesney © 1996 Augsburg Fortress
"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Text: Fred Kaan; Tune: Jamaican folk melody; Music: adapt. Doreen Potter / arr. Bradley Ellingboe
Words & Music © 1975; this arrangement © 1997 Hope Publishing Co
"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" Music: Karen Lafferty © 1972 Maranatha! Music (admin. The Copyright Co.)
"Postlude on sicilian mariners" – (Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing) Music: Alfred V. Fedak © 1986 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Overview

A fundamental decision is placed before us this day: Will we choose the way of blessing or the way of woe? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivot on which the decision turns. To be in Christ means that we get planted by streams of water and are rooted among those who thirst for God's reign. The mystery of our faith points the path to life: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.