



Love  
your enemies

LUKE 6:27

*Sunday, February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## PRELUDE

Prelude on “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

(KINGSFOLD)

John Barr

English folk tune

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt (see Genesis 45:3-11, 15). Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.*

## 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.**

**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.**



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . . on high!



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . . on high!



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
 And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
 And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6:27-38

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from

whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Cantor: stanza 1-Refrain

All: sts. 2-Ref. 3-Ref. 4-Ref. 5-Ref.

## For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



*Refrain*

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and  
 joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,  
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,  
 jus-tice and joy!

## 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 Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#2 As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#3 We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. 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: Anna, Annika, Anna, Antonio, and Autumn. 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:*

- Lois G, aunt of Laurie P, who died on 2/12
- Peter K, friend of Bob and Wendy R, who died on 2/11
- Helen D, mother of JoAnn S, who died on 2/3

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

- Sandy G, as she transitions to her new home at Cherry Ridge in Webster
- David P, as he recovers from anticipated surgery on 2/20
- Ken, brother-in-law of Linda M, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 2/14

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](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

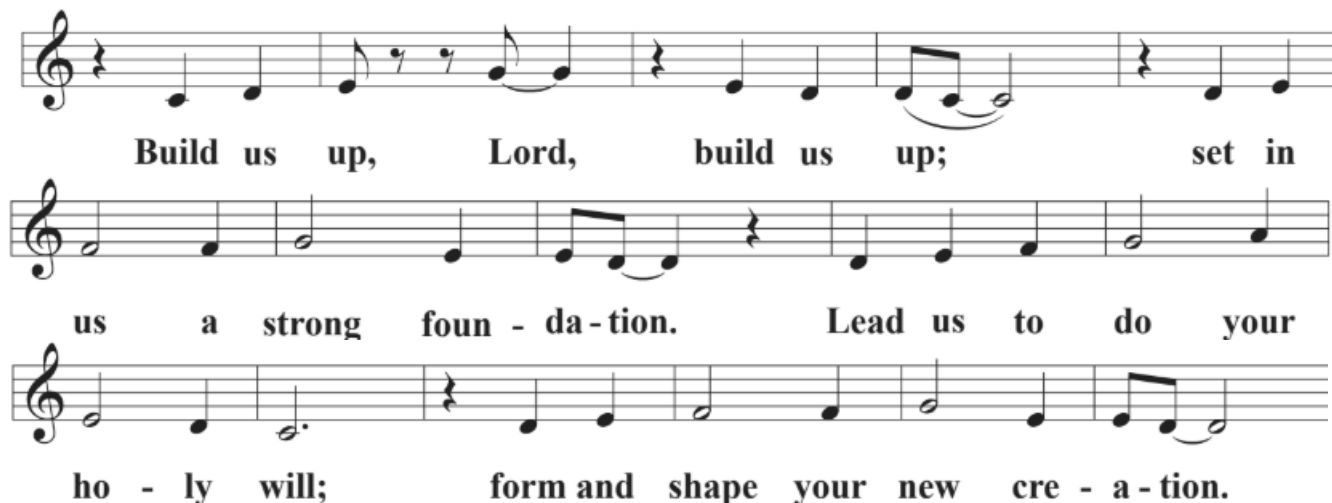
Make Us Instruments of Your Peace

(incorp. *Gymnopédie No. 1* by Erik Satie  
and *Holy, Holy, Holy* by Franz Schubert)

text, adapt. *Prayer of St. Francis*  
music, arr. Jean Ann Shafferman

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.**

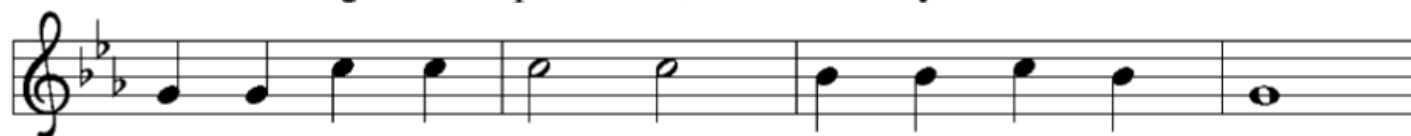
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . we praise your name and join their  
 unending hymn:



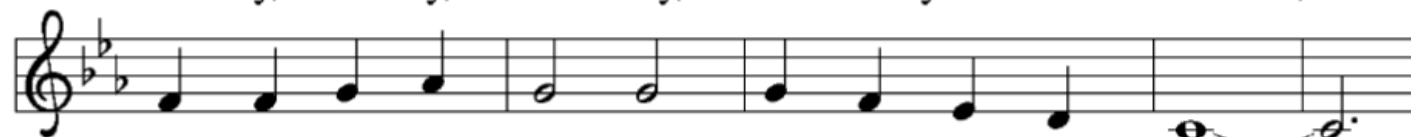
San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . . God,



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



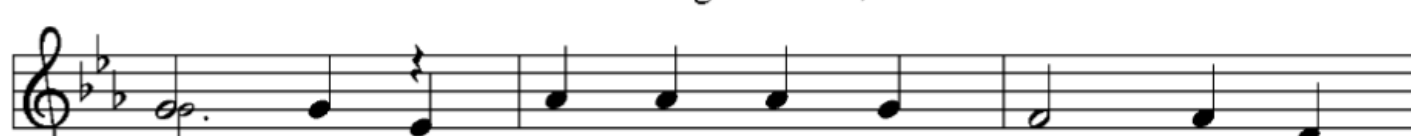
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . . God,



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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

(MARYTON)

ELW 608

H. Percy Smith



## **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.**

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	Light Dawns on a Weary World	ELW 726
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### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

“Jerusalem”  
(O Day of Peace)

Hubert H. Parry

## **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: Dave Wideman

Percussion: 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](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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"Prelude on *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*" Tune: English folk tune; Music: John Barr © 2024 The Leupold Foundation

"For Everyone Born" Text: Shirley Erena Murray; Music: Brian Mann

Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company; Music © 2006 Brian Mann (adm. GBGMusik)

"Make Us Instruments of Your Peace" Text: adapt. from *Prayer of St. Francis*

Music: arr. Jean Anne Shafferman (incorp. *Gymnopédie No. 1* by Erik Satie and *Holy, Holy, Holy* by Franz Schubert)

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"O Master, Let Me Walk with You" Text: Washington Gladden; Music: H. Percy Smith

"Jerusalem" – Postlude Music: Hubert H. Parry

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



between sundays 



Find episodes of our  
podcast here!



## Overview

The promise and its fulfillment may not look at all alike, even though they are intimately connected. Paul speaks about seeds and plants as he tries to picture resurrection life. Joseph's brothers never thought they would see him alive again, so how shocking he must have appeared to them as an Egyptian leader! Jesus invites us to sow seeds of new life by loving enemies.