

*Sunday, March 5, 2025*  
*Transfiguration of Our Lord*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## **PRELUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553

Johann Sebastian Bach

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.*

## **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****Jesus on the Mountain Peak**

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The score consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines, including a double bar line and a repeat sign. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts.

1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in  
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -  
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing,  
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,  
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law  
in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!  
sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.

join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.  
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing: Hal - le - lu - jah!  
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:  
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!

**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. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### **READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2**

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

<sup>12</sup> Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with complete frankness, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, the same veil is still there; it is not unveiled since in Christ it is set aside. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, <sup>16</sup> but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]**

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. [

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup> I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup> While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup> And all were astounded at the greatness of God.].

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	What a Beautiful Name
------------------------	-----------------------

words/music, Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood  
arr. Dan Gallbraith

*Congregation joins in singing Chorus when invited:*

### CHORUS 1

What a wonderful name it is,  
What a wonderful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a wonderful name it is.  
Nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus.  
What a wonderful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus.

### CHORUS 2

What a powerful name it is,  
What a powerful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a powerful name it is.  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus.

*(Last time, repeat the phrase 2 more times:)*

What a powerful name it is,  
The Name of Jesus.

## **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 Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others.

God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**



#2 We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace.

**hear our prayer.**

#3 We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. 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: Avery, Ben, Billy, Blakely, and Brady. We also give thanks for the young people who are formally welcomed to Christ's communion table today: Emmy, Izzy, Micah, Nate, Logan, Lucan, Kaitlynnne and Pearl. 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

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

- Neil V, who is hospitalized following a stroke
- Chris M, who is recovering from surgery and awaiting test results
- Peter S, brother-in-law of Peter M, who is recovering from surgery
- Mike K, father of Alli O's friend, who is recovering from surgery
- Sandy G, as she transitions to her new home at Cherry Ridge in Webster
- David P, as he recovers from surgery on 2/20

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**

The Light of Glory

words, Joseph M. Martin  
music, J. M. Martin and David Angerman

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!

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes. The piece concludes with a final double bar line on the tenth staff.

## 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.**

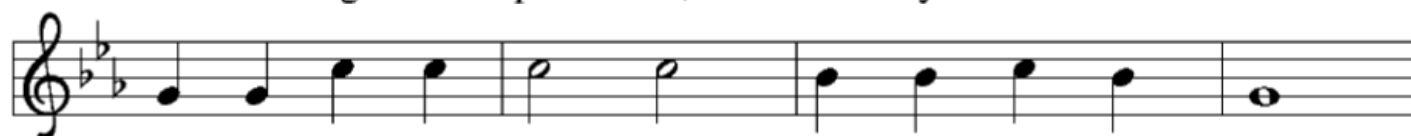
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:



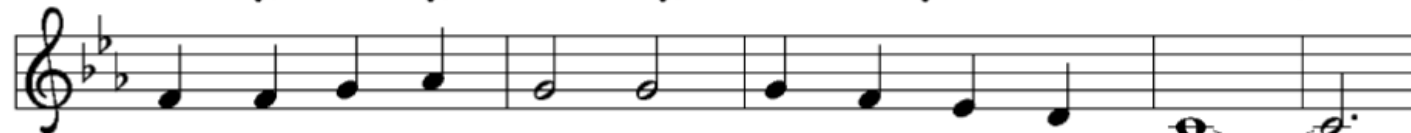
*San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,*



*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; . .

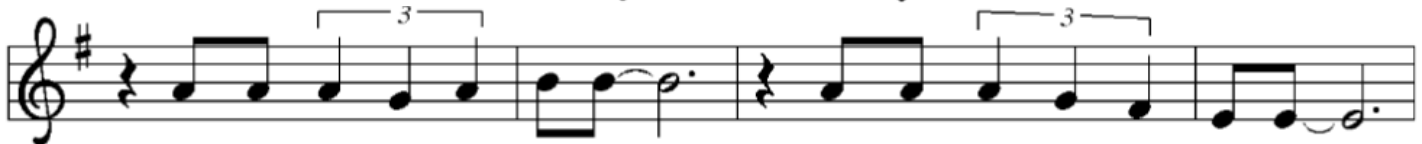


ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,

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

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
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

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

Beautiful Savior

ELW 315

arr. Susan W. Henry

Selesian folk tune, 19th cent

## 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>	Alleluia, Song of Gladness	ELW 318
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hymn setting, Michael D. Costello

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Festival Alleluia

(LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

Dan Miller

tune, *from* German hymnal, 1623



## **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:

Trumpet: Richard DePasquale      Percussion: Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

Vocal Ensemble: Sue Cardinal, Patricia Chaffe, Sarah Morrisette

Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

Violin: Jane Morale

Guitar: Rich Towsley

E-Guitar: Glen Zagorski

**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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“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”, Words: Brian Wren, 1962, 1988, © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor © 1985 Hope Publishing Co. Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company;  
Music © 2006 Brian Mann (adm. GBGMusik)  
“What A Beautiful Name”, Words and Music: Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood, Arranger: Dan Galbraith  
Text © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing Company (admin. Capitol CMG Publishing)  
“The Light of Glory”, Text: Joseph M. Martin (BMI), Music: Joseph M. Martin and David Angerman (ASCAP)  
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“Beautiful Savior” – Fairest Lord Jesus, Tune: Silesian folk song, 19<sup>th</sup> cent., Arranger: Susan W. Henry, © 2020 Birchnote  
“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”, Tune and Harmonization: lauda anima, John Goss, Arranger: Michael D. Costello  
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“Festival Alleluia”, Tune: German hymn tune, 1623 – lasst uns erfreuen, Music: Dan Miller, © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers

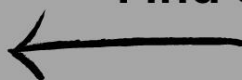
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## **Lifting the Veil**

The transfiguration is frustrating for disciples—past and present—who long for an unmediated experience of God. Jesus' glory is revealed, and then, just as suddenly, a cloud descends and the vision fades. And even though Paul contrasts the Christian's experience of God with Moses's veiled experience of God, he notes that we see the glory of the Lord "as though reflected in a mirror" (2 Cor. 3:18). Even with unveiled faces, we don't see directly, or even clearly. Even when God is revealed in shining glory, much remains veiled and hidden.

As he witnesses Jesus' transfiguration, Peter's understanding remains veiled; ours does too. The glimpses we get of God's glory—through the veil or reflected in the mirror—are expectation-shattering, alarming, overwhelming, and awesome. The love of God shines too brightly to view directly, and yet we do have the privilege of directly experiencing that love in baptism, in communion, in service to God, and in relationship with God's creation and our neighbors in need. The veils we contend with daily are the barriers that prevent us from truly loving those neighbors, caring for creation, and seeing the shining face of Jesus in the faces of people who are different, hungry, difficult, enemy, invisible, or poor. God is always revealed in ways that surprise and confuse us, whether shining on the mountaintop or dying on the cross.