



Jesus: a way in the
WILDERNESS

Sunday, March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent



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

PRELUDE

Pastorale on “Blessed Assurance”
(ASSURANCE)

Robert Lau
tune, Phoebe Palmer Knapp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God’s face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God’s walks with us thorough the wilderness of our lives and does not abandon us. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You belong to God and are never alone.

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.

KYRIE

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff is labeled 'Leader' and the second 'Assembly'. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the first staff; 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' on the second staff; and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the third staff. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Philippians 3:17—4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

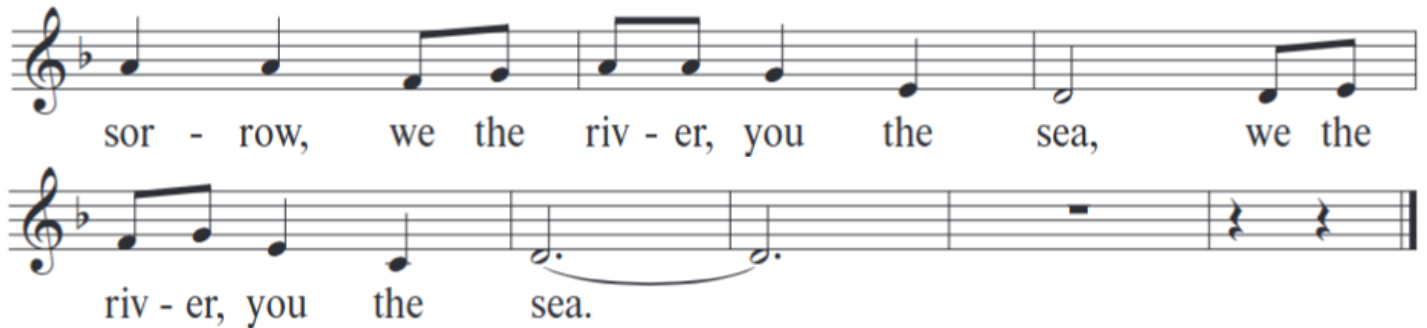
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum-bling
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



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

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

We are like helpless chicks; a fox is lurking; and Christ is our mother hen. Lent is a time to cast out demons and to await the third day when Christ finishes his work of salvation. We give to Jesus Christ the divine “name of the Lord.”

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Take a breath to reflect on God’s Word in silence before we begin to sing the hymn of the day.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God in your mercy
receive our prayer.

#2 Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

#3 Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, help us to experience your presence through the children, youth, and young adults around us, especially: Charlotte, Connor, Cooper, Corinne, and Daniel. May this season of Lent be a time of renewal for us and our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. God in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for all who are experiencing a time of wilderness in their life.

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

- Nancy C, sister-in-law of Pat S, who died on 2/26/25

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David O, who has been hospitalized with pneumonia
- George F, who is recovering at home from an illness
- Neil V, who is hospitalized following a stroke
- Mike K, father of Alli O's friend, who is recovering from surgery
- Carson, neighbor of Pat E, who has been hospitalized with congestive heart failure

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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

Commitment

(SEELENBRÄUTIGAM)

text, Nicolaus von Zinzendorf

tr. Jane L. Borthwick, alt.

music, Adam Drese / arr. Lloyd Pfautsch

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious Provider,
you give us all that we need: faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love and open your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bounty, deepen our commitment to sharing those provisions with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

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 sins of the

To repeat
world, have mer - cy on us.

Last time
world, grant us peace.

The musical score is written on three staves in G minor. The first staff has a 3/4 time signature and contains the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the'. The second staff has a 4/4 time signature, a repeat sign, and the lyrics 'world, have mer - cy on us.'. The third staff has a 4/4 time signature, a 'Last time' marking, and the lyrics 'world, grant us peace.'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and time signature changes.

HYMN FOR COMMUNION

Taste and See

ELW 493

Refrain to be sung by the congregation

Refrain - All

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music is for the vocal line, with the lyrics: "Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The second system of music is for the vocal line, with the lyrics: "taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord." The piano accompaniment continues with similar chords and notes.

Cantor:

1. *I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me. Ref.*
2. *Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name. I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free. Ref.*
3. *Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust. Ref.*

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and sustained us with your very self. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your loving presence might nourish the world, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

May God who calls us to travel along new paths and through unknown perils fill us with faith and courage, and may ☩ Christ's hand lead us in love and support us each step of the way by the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me	ELW 767
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus walks with you.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Lead Me, Lord

text, based on Psalms 4:8 and 5:8
music, Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

During the season of Lent we omit the Postlude and provide space for silence and reflection following worship. Please honor this time of meditation by moving conversations outside of the sanctuary.

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:

Sue Cardinal, flute

Madeleine Hoffman, cantor

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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"Pastorale on Blessed Assurance", Tune: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, Music: Robert Lau, © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"Commitment", Text: Nicolaus von Zinzendorf / tr. Jane L. Borthwick, alt., Music: Adam Drese

Arranger: Lloyd Pfautsch, © 1970 Augsburg Publishing House

"Taste and See", Text: James E. Moore Jr. – based on Psalm 34, Music: James E. Moore Jr.

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

"Lead Me, Lord", Text: based on Psalms 4:8 and 5:8, Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

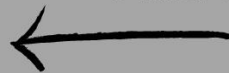
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Purpose and Perseverance

This week's gospel text from Luke presents another temptation for Jesus. The Pharisees approach Jesus with a warning about his safety, telling him to "get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you" (Luke 13:31). Not only do the Pharisees want Jesus to leave, but one can assume they also want Jesus to stop doing what he was doing: speaking against the Pharisees, teaching about God, and healing on the sabbath. We know that some Pharisees were "very hostile" (Luke 11:53) toward Jesus, so we can conclude that their warning is not a genuine expression of concern but rather an attempt to stop his mission and ministry.

However, Jesus will not be distracted or turned away from his purpose, even if that includes moving toward his own death in Jerusalem. In Jesus' ability to fulfill his purpose, even in the midst of opposition, we find inspiration as we seek to live our lives in concert with God's purposes. As Christians, Jesus' purpose is our purpose. The church, the body of Christ, doesn't exist for itself. Rather, the church exists to be a partner with God in God's mission to love, bless, and reconcile the world.