



*My sheep  
hear my  
voice*

JOHN 10:27

*Sunday, May 11, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Easter*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## **PRELUDE**

The Lord's My Shepherd

(BROTHER JAMES' AIR)

Anthony Giamanco

tune, James L. Macbeth Bain

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for all who traverse the valley of the shadow of death with the Good Shepherd. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

## **GATHERING**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**Amen.**

<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>
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All Creatures, Worship God Most High!
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ELW 835
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Stanzas — All: 1, 2, 3

Choir: 4

All: 5, 6

### **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.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Down by the Riverside

with "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Traditional spirituals

arr. Tammy Waldrop

The Chancel Bells

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

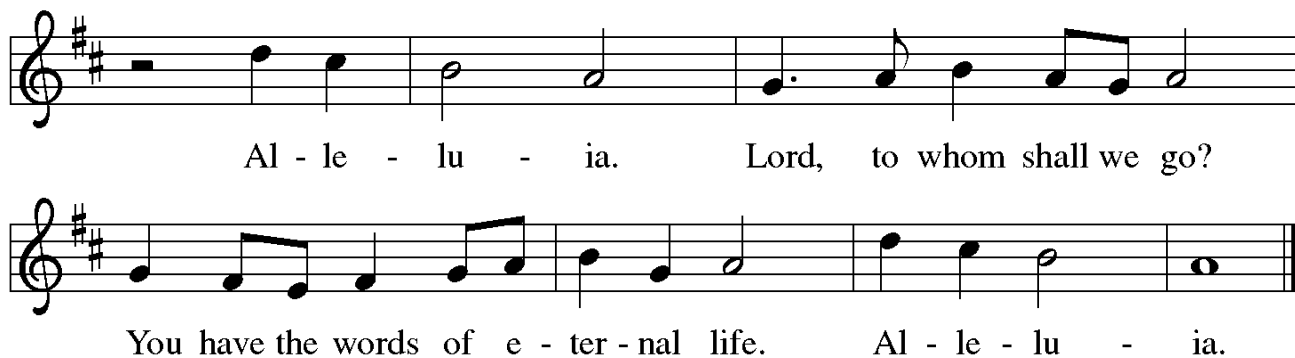
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## DEDICATION OF ALL CREATION SINGS HYMNALS

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

#1 You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#2 You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. With the arrival of spring, revive our fragile ecosystems, restore, and bring forth new life. Teach us to live in balance and harmony with all living things. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

#3 You lead all peoples along right pathways. Enlighten our local, state, national, and international leaders. Grant them the courage to fight oppressive forces with mercy and compassion, striving for restorative justice. Encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sustain new life in the ministry of our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe and in us through the children, youth, and young adults around us, especially: Logan, Lucas, Luke, Madeleine, and Marilyn. May this season of Easter open us to the new ways and new ideas that they reveal to us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care.

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

- Elaine B, mother of Dave W, who died on 4/27
- Christopher R (grandson of Dorice R and nephew of Kim K) who died unexpectedly on 5/5

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

- Bob and Joyce C as Bob transitions to hospice care (still at St John's)
- Marja R, who has been suffering from a persistent knee injury
- Sue T, who is scheduled for surgery on 5/12
- Michele, friend of Jim and Donna B
- Anita T, who is recovering from a recent fall and hospitalization
- Volker H, who has been recently hospitalized
- Ginny S, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 5/6
- Pat E, who is recovering from anticipated surgery on 5/5
- Lucille A, coordinator for Project Linus in Genesee Valley
- Bob K, at home recovering from knee surgery on 4/24

Hear the names of those we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

words, F. S. Pierpoint  
music, John Rutter

The Chancel Choir

### OFFERTORY

A musical score for a two-part offertory. The first system consists of a treble and bass staff in D major (two sharps). The treble staff has a melody with lyrics: "How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with lyrics: "thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es". The treble staff has a final note on a whole note, and the bass staff has a final chord on a whole note.

How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es



### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,  
**you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit we pray:

**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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

**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.

## HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

We Come Now to Your Table

ACS 970

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



2 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel  
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ  
ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to  
danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;  
sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of  
fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor  
last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## LEAVING TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

(LLANFAIR)

Margaretha Christina de Jong  
tune, Robert Williams

## **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 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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Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.  
"The Lord's My Shepherd", Tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR by James L. Macbeth Bain  
Music: Anthony Giamanco, © 2024 The Leupold Foundation  
Down by the Riverside (with "I've Got Peace Like a River")  
Music: Traditional Spirituals, Arranger: Tammy Waldrop, © 2008 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
"For the Beauty of the Earth, Words: F. S. Pierpoint, Music: John Rutter  
© 1980 Oxford University Press (adm. Hinshaw Music, Inc.).  
"Voices Raised to You" – stanza 5, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., Music: Carolyn Jennings  
Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc., Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings  
"We Come Now to Your Table", Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop  
Music: St. Vincent traditional, adapt. / arr. Patrick Prescod, © Caribbean Conference of Churches  
"Build a Longer Table", Text: David Bjorlin, Music: French carol, Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.  
"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded" – stanza 2, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB  
Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.  
"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise", Tune: LLANFAIR by Robert Williams  
Music: Margaretha Christina de Jong, © 2024 The Leupold Foundation

## **The Searching Sheep**

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to “tell us plainly” (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today’s texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter (Acts 9:36-43), the vision of saints and mythical beasts (Revelation 7:9-17), and even Jesus’ works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can’t be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.