



*Sunday, May 25, 2025  
Sixth Sunday of Easter*

 BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## PRELUDE

“Down Ampney”

(Come Down, O Love Divine)

William H. Bates  
tune, Ralph Vaughan Williams

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

## 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.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389

### **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.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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

### **READING: Acts 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us. The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Come Down, O Love Divine

ELW 804

**APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, 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.*

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 Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

#2 Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

#3 This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. 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: Nathan, Nate, Noah, Nate, and Noah. 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.**

Bring new hope to all in need.

*We give thanks for:*

- Evan P. and Emily B who married last week. Evan is the son of Raelynn C.

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

- David K, brother-in-law of Susie D, who died 5/16
- David B (son of the late Jo B, longtime member of BLC), who died on 5/14
- Miller M, friend and fellow Eagle Scout of Daniel M, who died suddenly on 5/7 at the age of 20

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

- Dave M, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization
- Lisa R, who is scheduled for surgery on 5/28
- Alex M, son of Linda M, who had an ICD implant on 5/20
- Ken, brother-in-law of Linda M, who is recovering from surgery
- Tim P, uncle of Hans W-P, who is undergoing medical testing
- Sue T, who is recovering from surgery on 5/12

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

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

(MORECAMBE)

David Cherwien  
tune, Frederick C. Atkinson

## OFFERTORY

How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the  
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es  
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

## 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.**

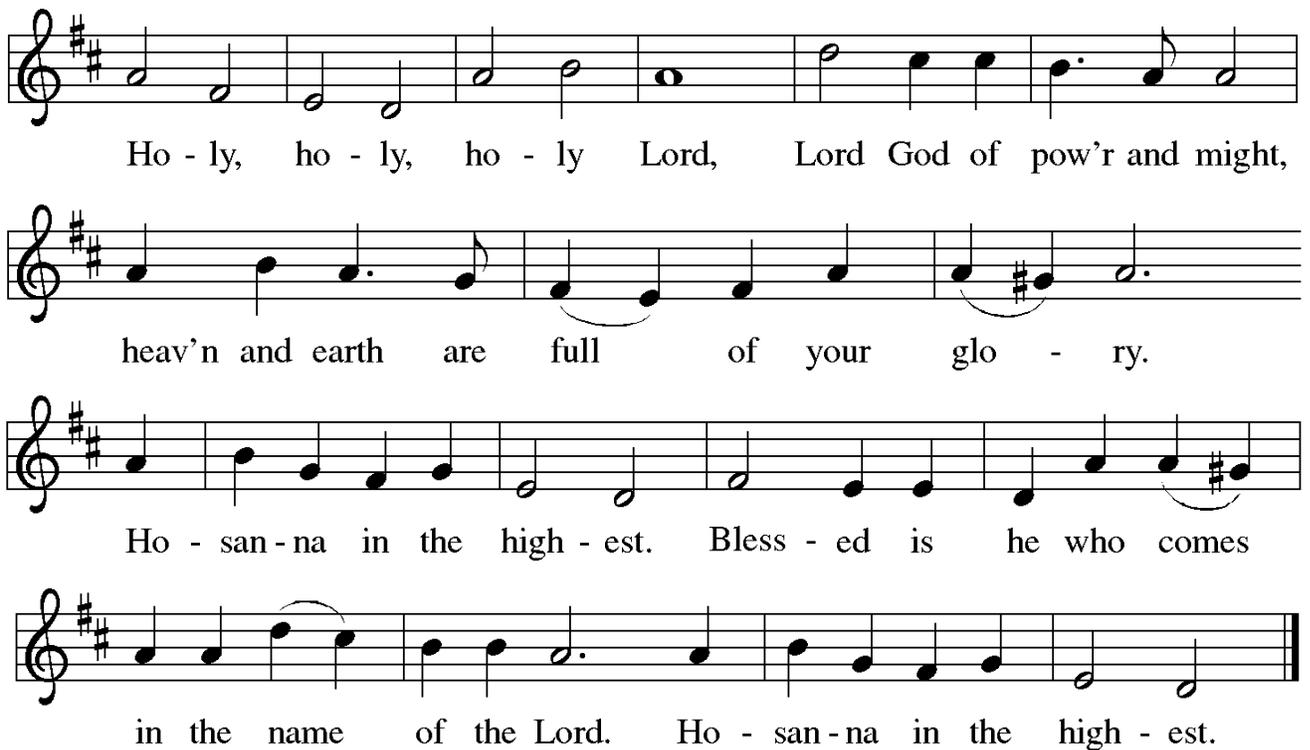
Lift up your hearts.

**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:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

# HYMN FOR COMMUNION

The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646

## 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.**

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	Come, We That Love the Lord	ELW 625
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### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(ST. DENIO)

Michael Burkhardt  
tune, Welsh traditional

## **BLC Pastors**

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

**Special thanks** to Pastor David Gerhardt for leading worship this morning while Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman are both taking time away.

## **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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"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart", Tune: Frederick C. Atkinson, Music: David Cherwien, © 1995 Summa Productions

"Voices Raised to You" – stanza 5, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., Music: Carolyn Jennings

Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc., Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded" – stanza 2, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB

Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise", Tune: Welsh folk tune, Music: Michael Burkhardt, © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers

## **Our Home-making God**

Into the midst of our anxiety and alarm we are offered a vision of a glorious future filled with promise—the promise that God will make a home with us. This is a promise of an ultimate future home—a New Jerusalem!—but also a promise of God’s daily home-making presence in the hearts of all who believe. Paul has a vision of a cry for help from Macedonia, and his beloved church at Philippi is founded in the home and household of Lydia. In Revelation, John, turning from the lake of fire, is carried up in a vision and sees the New Jerusalem coming down, centered on the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. But no longer is there separation from God, weeping, or mourning, but now a restored creation where God and God’s people are at home together. Jesus promises that though he is going away, he will come to his disciples in the power of an advocate, the Holy Spirit, and that both he and the Father will make their home in all who believe. The gathering of the faithful assembly to receive Christ’s word and sacrament is a foretaste of that New Jerusalem, where God will finally and ultimately be at home with us, even as the Holy Trinity makes a home now in the hearts of all who believe. Into the anxieties and uncertainties of our everyday life we are offered both a vision of a glorious future when God will be at home with us and we will be at home with God, and a living foretaste of that same future: “We will come to them and make our home with them. . . . Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:23b, 27a).