



Whoever
is faithful in
a very little
is faithful
also in much

LUKE 16:10

Sunday, September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost



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

PRELUDE

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

(THE SOLID ROCK)

Anthony Giamanco
tune, William B. Bradbury

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God knows every bit of you and loves you just the way you are. Your voice, your presence, your worship matters to God and to the BLC community! Claimed by God in the waters of baptism and fed at Christ's table of mercy, YOU MATTER!

GATHERING

Una versión en español de la orden de culto de hoy está disponible en el himnario azul All Creation Sings que comienza en la página 8.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires are known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!
To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS AND JOY!

*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 designated spaces. **Worship for Kids** (Ages 3 – Grade 2) meets across the hall from the sanctuary and **JOY!** (Grades 3 – 5) meets downstairs. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Sung two times

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much

do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment	ACS 1036
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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.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Dear God, may we at Bethlehem create a welcoming place to meet those most in need: the poor economically and spiritually, those longing to be seen regardless of race, ethnicity, gender preference or social status. Dear Lord help us to see. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 Our natural world is crying to be saved before it is too late. We pray that our leaders and each of us find a way to create a more sustainable way to live. It can start with us. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 Dear God of mercy and justice, we are told you open your arms to all. We pray that you touch the hearts of our leaders in government and open their eyes to the extreme inequities people in our communities and our country are suffering today. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, our country seems caught in an endless spiral of vicious hatred and heinous crimes. Dear Lord, please help our communities, our social networks, medical people, and our spiritual communities and churches with resources to provide support, protection, and solutions for humans in despair and hopelessness. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who provide care following disasters, including through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We know that all people matter in your eyes and you know their cares and concerns, their hopes and joys. We pray for those whose needs are known to us.

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

- Murray B, husband of Jeff H's cousin, who died on 9/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Scarlett E, mother of Justin E, who is experiencing health issues
- Emma M, daughter of Calvin and Lynn M and granddaughter of Dan and Linda J) who was just diagnosed with cancer.
- Tom P, father of Jason P, who is experiencing health challenges
- Phyllis S, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 9/8

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

To God Be Joyful

words, Psalm 100 / ed. Hal H. Hopson
music, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / arr. H. H. Hopson

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our



neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work



with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,
you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

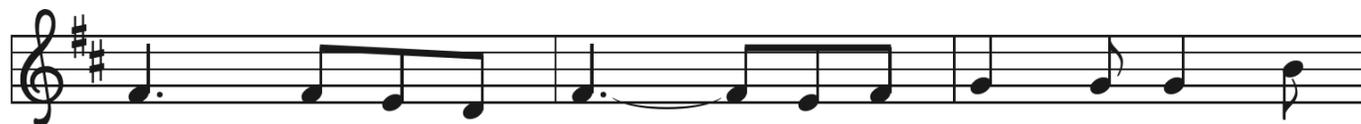
THE COMMUNION



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



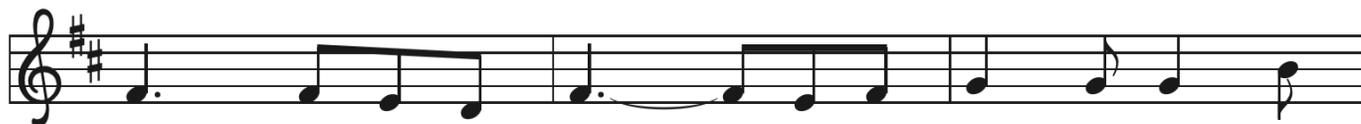
ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
 O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
 sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -
 O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no -
 sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -



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



Da - nos tu paz. A - mén.
 Grant us your peace. A - mén.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

Break Now the Bread of Life

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 515

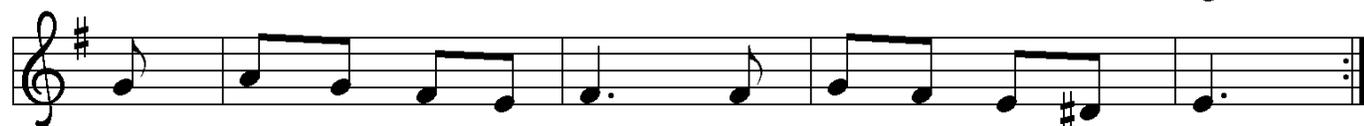
ELW 612

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



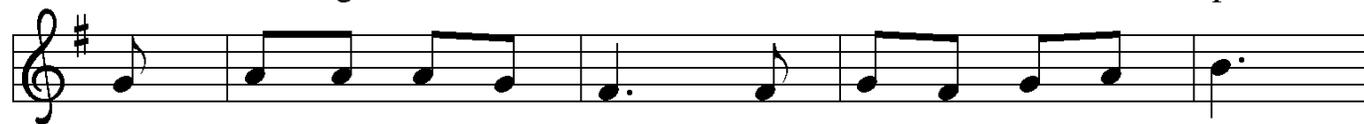
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;



me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	O God of Every Nation	ELW 713
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Gott du frommer Gott

(O God, Thou Faithful God)

Hieronymus Florentinus Quehl

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:

Margie Gaul, percussion

Dave Wideman, percussion

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: Molly Vasey is in the office from 9am - 1pm Tuesday - Thursday and can be reached by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing office@blcfairport.org. Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org



Evergreen East Food Distribution

Sundays, July 20 thru September 21

We'll begin packing food in the parking lot at 10:30 AM (after worship) and then distribute food at 11:15 AM. Extra produce from your garden or any non-perishable items to add to the food cupboard are welcome!

Contact Julie Owen
(jowen@heritagechristianservices.org) to get involved!



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



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“Gloria a Dios” Music: anonymous, Peru © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)
Aleluya” Music: anonymous, Honduras © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)

“Praise and Thanksgiving” Text: Albert F. Bayly; Music: Gaelic tune (bunessan)
Text © Oxford University Press; Music (arr.) © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Cordero de Dios” Music: Rudy Espinoza © 2020 Holy Communion, Setting 11 (adm. Augsburg Fortress)
“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”, Tune: William B. Bradbury, Setting: Anthony Giamanco, © 2025 The Leupold Foundation

“To God Be Joyful”, Words: Psalm 100 /ed. Hal H. Hopson, Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / arr. Hal H. Hopson
© 1984 Harold Flammer Music (adm. Shawnee Press, Inc.)

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” – Enviado soy de Dios, Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford
Musci: Anonymous, Central America

“O Gott du frommer Gott”, Music: Hieronymus Florentinus Quehl

Love or Money?

A rich landowner tells his unsatisfactory manager he's going to fire him. We don't know how long the employee had to clear his desk, but apparently it was long enough to win friends and influence the people who had accounts with his boss. The manager called them in and reduced their debt. When the boss heard about it, for some reason he didn't call his lawyer but sat back and laughed in admiration.

How could Jesus tell a story where the main character is a crook? Why did the boss commend the bad manager? What is Jesus trying to tell us? This parable can be difficult for us to interpret. One possibility: Dr. Audrey West, in the 2004 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study, described a parable as a story about something ordinary, with a surprise or twist that leads us to experience reality in a new way, so that it may even transform our daily living. The surprise in this parable is not the manager's self-serving behavior, as we've seen for ourselves in some corporate accounting scandals in the news. The surprise is the boss showing mercy.

Does this boss remind you of someone? Maybe the landowner in another parable who pays a full day's wage to farm workers who spent barely one hour in the vineyard? The father running out to welcome a shamed and destitute, long-lost son? Or someone who's been in the news lately? Is there any way that he reminds you of God?

In God's economy, people matter more than profits. The prophets, the writers of the Psalms, and Jesus, telling the parable, agree on this. The epistle writer adds a prayer for "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" for everyone, boss and beggar alike.