

*Sunday, September 28, 2025
16th Sunday after Pentecost*

 BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Allegro

from Voluntary, op. 3, no. 1

John Garth

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. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through 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: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust. (Ps. 91:2).

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of ¹ the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹ the Almighty—

² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge ¹ and my stronghold,
my God in whom I ¹ put my trust.”**

³ For God will rescue you from the snare ¹ of the hunter
and from the ¹ deadly plague.

⁴ **God’s wings will cover you, and you will find ref- ¹ uge beneath them;
God’s faithfulness will be your shield ¹ and defense. R**

⁵ You shall not fear any terror ¹ in the night,
nor the arrow that ¹ flies by day;

⁶ **nor the plague that stalks ¹ in the darkness,
nor the sickness that lays ¹ waste at noon.**

¹⁴ I will deliver those who ¹ cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they ¹ know my name.

¹⁵ **They will call me, and I will ¹ answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ¹ honor them.**

¹⁶ With long life will I ¹ satisfy them,
and show them ¹ my salvation. **R-**

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 musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the final two lines of lyrics, including the phrase 'El Señor resucitó' and 'Christ is risen, risen indeed'.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out,

‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.’²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Will You Come and Follow Me	ELW 798
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PRESENTATION OF THOSE AFFIRMING THEIR BAPTISMS

Today we have the privilege of witnessing as these siblings in Christ affirm their faith as well the promises made at their baptism. I invite each of you to stand where you are when you are named.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Congregation stands

Together with your siblings in Christ, you wish to profess your faith in God and reject sin. We make these bold statements not because we are absolutely certain about these things, but because we are always becoming faithful to them and learning to wrestle with these claims about our relationship with God. We join our voices with yours to remind you that we are all in this together.

People of God: Do you reject the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that pull us away from God? If so, say, “We do!”

We do!

Do you promise to continue supporting these children of God, affirming them through all circumstances with their first and forever name: Beloved? If so, say, “We do!”

We do!

Do you promise to hold space for them to keep growing in faith, so they learn to trust there is nothing they can do to make God love them any more or any less than they are already loved in Jesus? If so, say, “We do!”

We do!

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Congregation is seated

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Will you join us in practicing your faith and keeping these responsibilities:
to live among God's faithful people, to pray,
to hear the word of God and share the Lord's Supper,
to learn the prayers, creeds, and commandments, to open the holy Scriptures,
to be nurtured by the faith and prayers of others,
so that you learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for
others and the world God made and work for justice and peace?

I will ask each of you to respond by saying, *"I will, and I ask God to help me."*

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their
life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

After all confirmands have been prayed for:

Join me in celebrating with these siblings in Christ.

**We celebrate your faith, your voice, and your unfolding story as beloved
children of God! On behalf of the whole church on earth, we will continue to
pray for your faith and give thanks for you. God bless you!**

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 We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel. Help us to read, study and inwardly mark our hearts with your scriptures. May we be comforted by your promises and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. We thank you for harvests, especially for Moll Farms that shares so generously with our congregation that we may in turn, share with Evergreen East. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. We pray especially for the people of our Bethlehem congregation, that we would be strengthened to build our communities into a place where all can thrive. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for ministries which support people living in poverty, illness, and neglect; 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 give thanks for the gift of faith that passes from generation to generation. We celebrate today with these young people who publicly affirm their faith: Madeleine H, Ryan K, and Aaron R. Fill us all with your spirit of light and truth to be your disciples in the world. 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:

- Ben E, recovering from a fall and surgery on 9/21
- Jim M, for health concerns
- Katie, sister of Sandy J, recovering from a severe fall
- Scarlett E, mother of Justin E, who is experiencing health issues
- 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

Write upon My Heart

words, Joseph M. Martin
music, David Angerman

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 hearth. 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

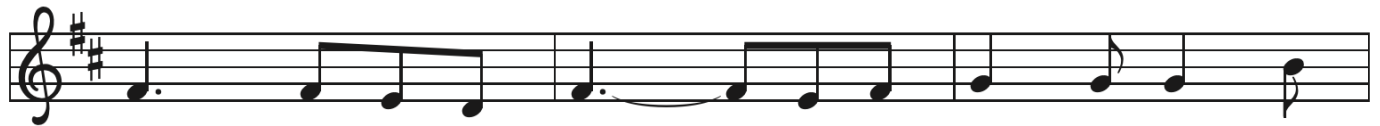
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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 - men.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

Build a Longer Table

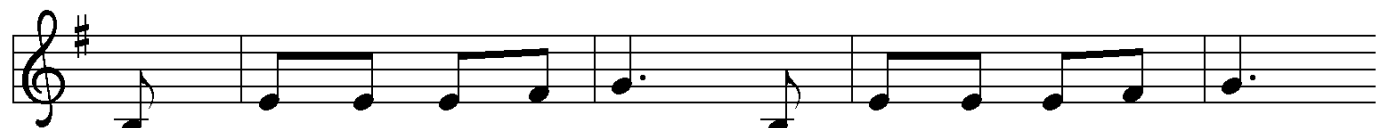
ACS 1062

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

ACS 966

TABLE BLESSING

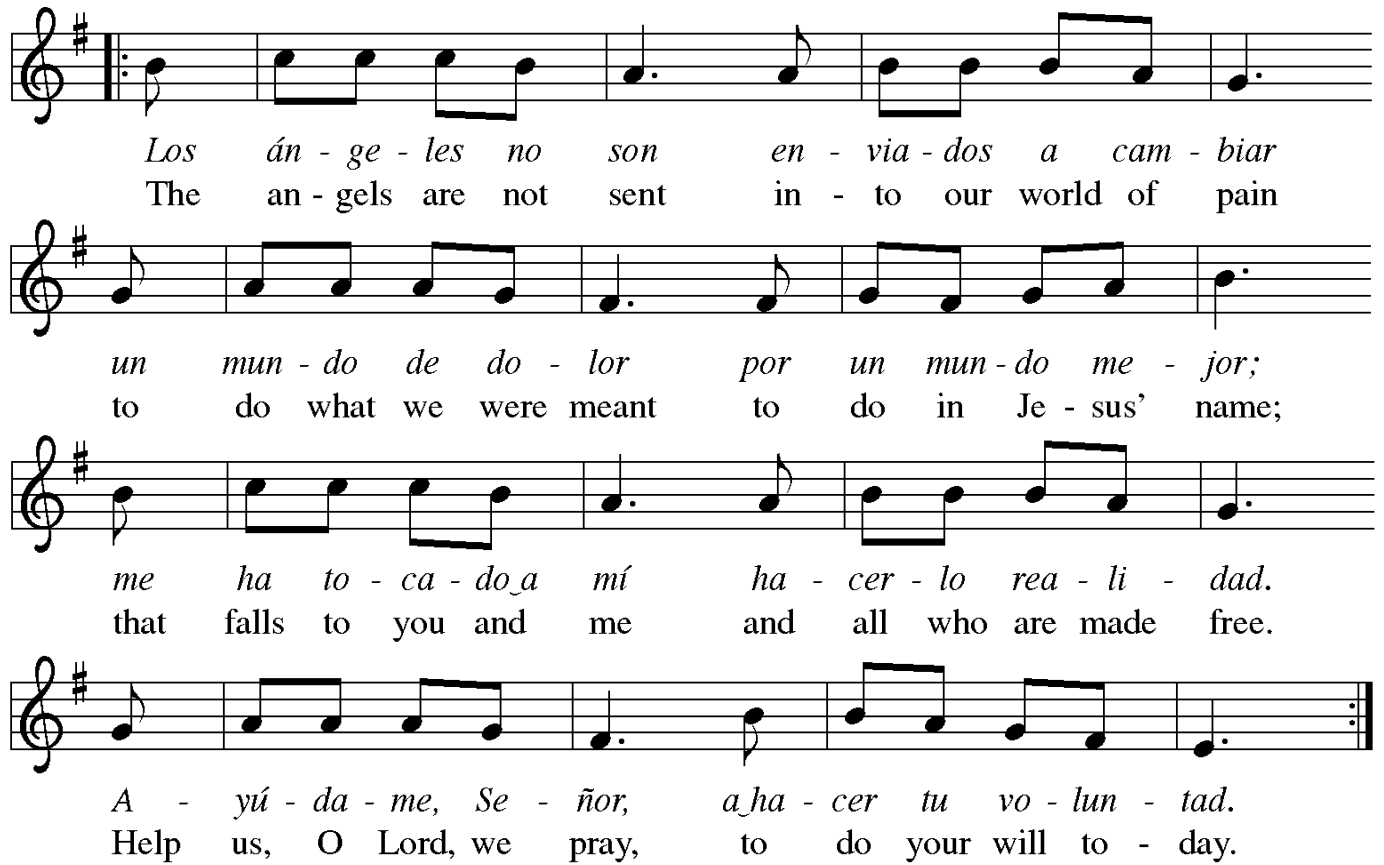
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



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	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending	ELW 678
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Diane Bish

(NETTLETON)

tune, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

Meet Our Confirmands



Madeleine Hoffman

Psalm 147:1-3

Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

I chose this verse because it has many meaningful parts. The beginning says, "God is worthy of a praising song". I think this captures why I like sharing music in Church - because it is a way of offering my praise to God through the gifts he has given me.

The next two sections say, "The Lord builds community and heals those who are hurting". I think this is significant, because it shows how God heals people. One of the times I think about God is when I see people who are homeless, or don't have access to daily necessities. I think about how God can accompany them through those hard times. I believe this verse represents the ways I see and praise God.



Ryan Koncilja

Isaiah 64:8

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

This bible quote is important to me because it tells us that God made us and that we are all his people. I am grateful for being kind to others and enjoying school and sports. I learned from Confirmation class that there are many ways people have faith and that there are many ways to share that faith. Faith to me is about being with family and experiencing God's love.



Aaron Runke

Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This verse means to never give up and keep pushing forward. I like it because it motivates me to accomplish my goals in life. When I am struggling, I will look to God to guide me.

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:

Flute: Sue Cardinal

Guitar: James Berner, Rich Towsley

Percussion: Margie Gaul, Rich Towsley, Neil Vokes

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

Bethlehem's **Annual Meeting** of the congregation will take place on **Sunday, October 26 following worship**. Plan to attend worship on Reformation Sunday (wear Red!) and stay for this opportunity to engage in the work of the congregation.

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



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“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)

“Allegro” – from Voluntary, op. 3, no. 1, Music: John Garth

“Write upon My Heart”, Words: Joseph M. Martin (BMI), Music: David Angerman (ASCAP)

© 2000, Malcom Music and GlorySound (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

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessin”, Tune: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Setting: Diane Bish, © 1985 Fred Bock Music Company

Place-sharing

Today's gospel evokes our sympathy. It opens the possibility—described as an impossibility—of place-sharing, trading or sharing places with each other. It also echoes a common theme: the pursuit of wealth in this world can lead us into idolatry and away from faith in Christ. Instead, as 1 Timothy 6:6-19 reminds us, we should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness, so that there is no “poor man named Lazarus” dying at our gates. After all, the greatest treasure—our eternal salvation has already been procured for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Knowing this, we can share all we have with our neighbors, even our very place and salvation, confident that God will continue to provide for our needs.