

Jesus was
transfigured
before them

MATTHEW 17:2

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Transfiguration of Our Lord



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

PRELUDE

Beautiful Savior

(SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU)

Dale Wood

tune, Silesian folk, 19th cent.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(ST. DENIO)

Michael Burkhardt

tune, Welsh traditional

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of
Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to
live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW 853

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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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 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: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

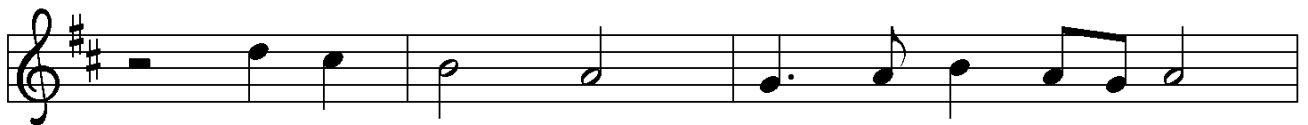
¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

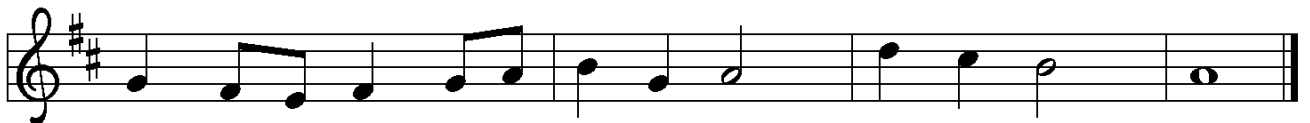
The word of the Lord.

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 Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
 2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing,
 4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
 in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!
 sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.

join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
 shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.


#1 Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

#2 Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

#3 Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

We pray for unsheltered neighbors and siblings in Christ, that they will have safe, secure and consistent places to live each day. Strengthen our partners who are part of the Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. Merciful God,
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 give thanks for:

- The safe arrival of Matthew Stetson T., born on February 8th. (Matthew is the great grandson of Sandy Squires.)

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Gladys G, mother of David G, who is facing multiple health challenges
- Erika J, sister of Vera P, who has begun treatment for cancer
- Aiden, grandson of Jim and Donna B, who was injured in a sledding accident

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

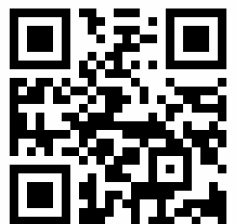
The peace of Christ be with you always.

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 or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERING OF MUSIC

We Have Seen His Glory

David Huntsinger

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,

you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here.

Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

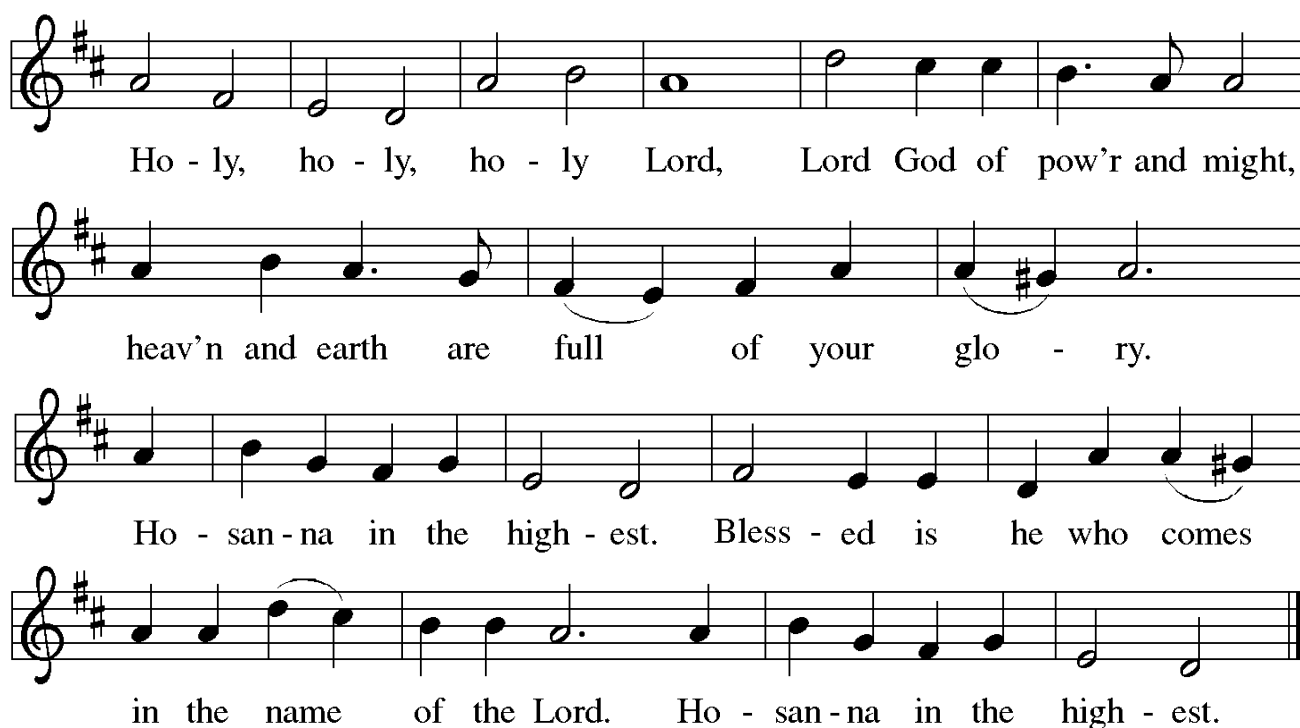
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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

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

United in baptism, we pray as Jesus taught:

**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

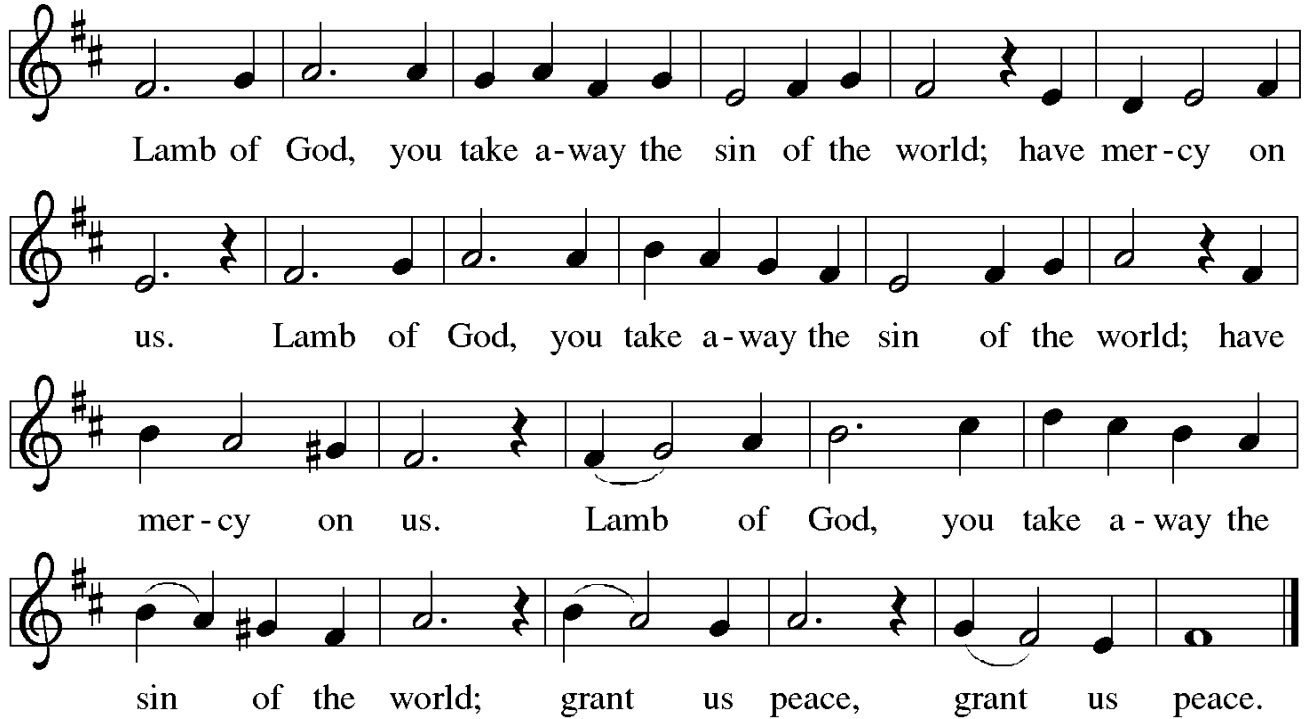
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

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

O Beauty Ever Ancient

ACS 1100

Stanzas — 1: Cantor

2, 3, 4: All

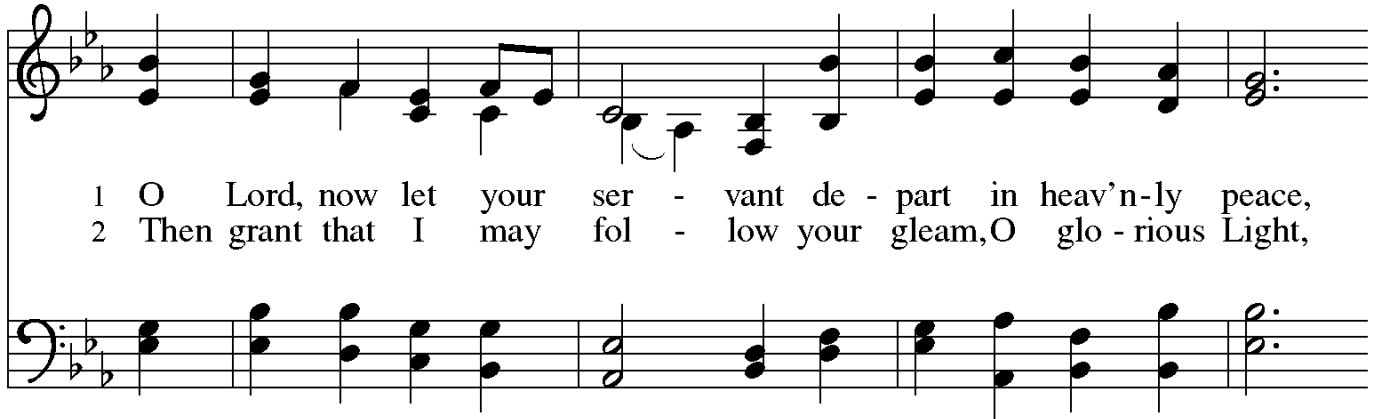
HYMN FOR COMMUNION

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

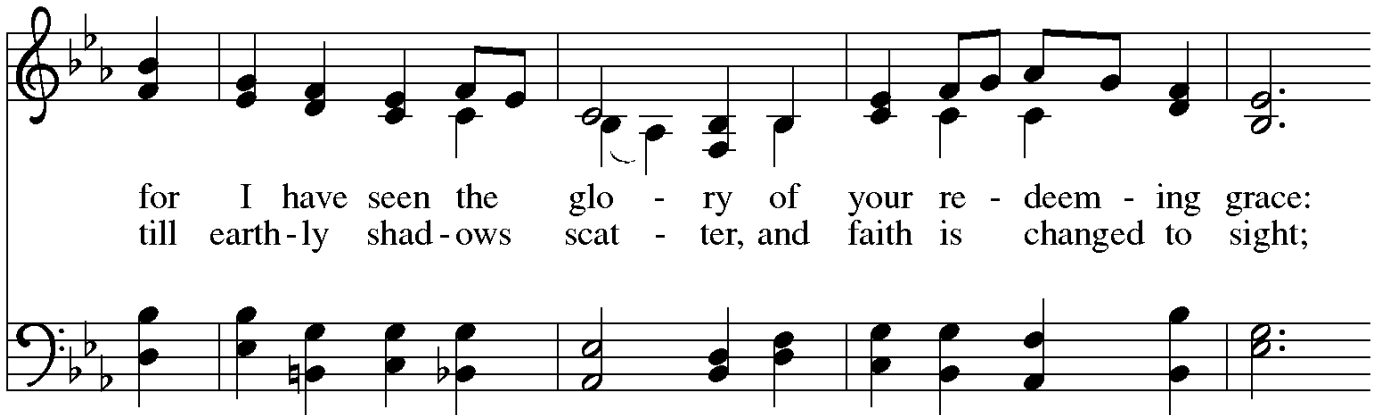
ACS 954

TABLE BLESSING

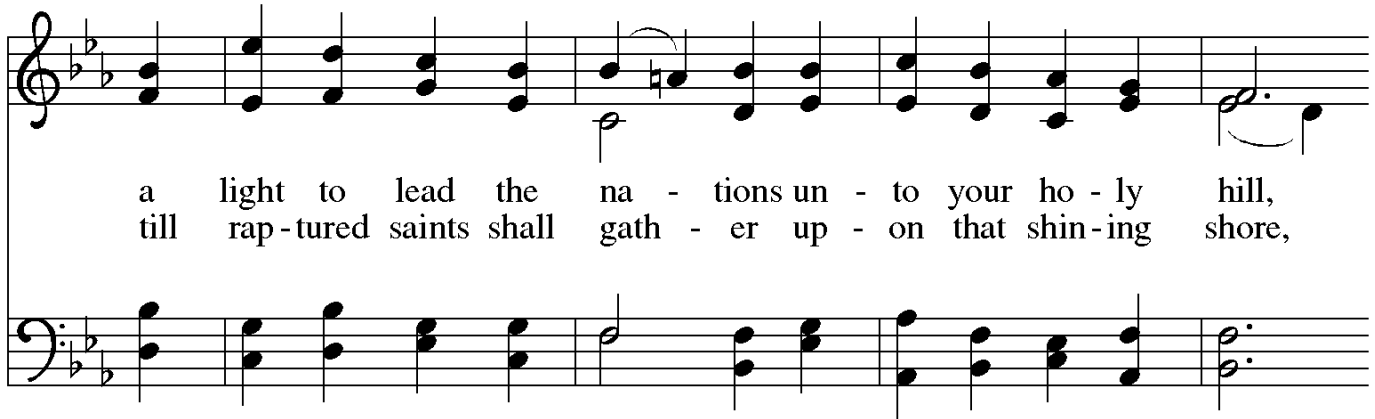
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



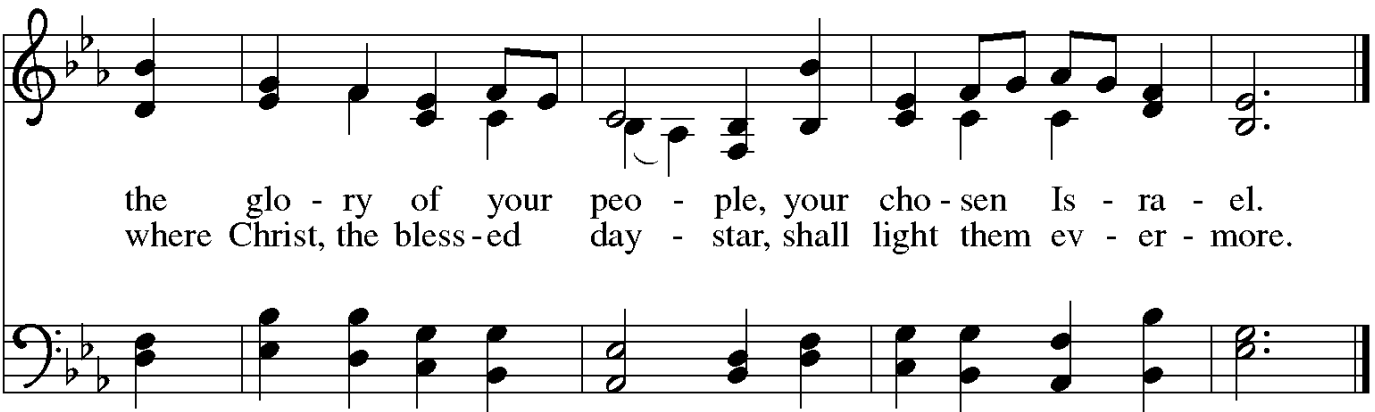
1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

LEAVING TO SERVE

BURYING THE ALLELUIA

BENEDICTION

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Alleluia, Song of Gladness	ELW 318
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hymn setting, Michael D. Costello

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccatà in G Major

from 12 Pièces pour orgue, No. 3

Théodore Dubois

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:

James Berner, cantor

Andy Gates, cantor

Richard DePasquale, trumpet

Thank you to the Rev. John Macholz for proclaiming the word and presiding at our worship today! Please thank Pastor Macholz for his presence and leadership. Pastor Amy will return to the office on February 18 and Pastor Hoffman will return on February 23. If you have an urgent pastoral care need before Pastor Amy returns, please contact the church office.

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: Sandy Squires holds office hours on Wednesdays from 9-1 and is responsive to phone and email Monday through Friday during usual business hours. Please communicate your needs through the church office by phone (585) 223-0634 or by email 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

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Holy Communion, Setting Four; Music: Ronald A. Nelson © 1978, 2006 Ronald Nelson (adm. Augsburg Fortress)

“We Plow the Field and Scatter” - ELW 681, stanza 3 Text: Matthias Claudius; tr. Jane M. Campbell, Music: Johann A. P. Schulz

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant” - ELW 313 Text: Ernest E. Ryder, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. Hymn version; Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Beautiful Savior”, Tune: Selesian folk melody, Music: Dale Wood, © 1991 The Sacred Music Press

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”, Tune: Welsh traditional, Music: Michael Burkhardt, © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers

“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”, Words: Brian Wren, 1962, 1988, © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor © 1985 Hope Publishing Co., “We Have Seen His Glory”, Words and Music: David Huntsinger

© 2008 Huntsinger Music (BMI), “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”, Tune and Harmonization: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, Arranger: Michael D. Costello

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“Toccata in G Major” – 12 Pièces pour orgue, No. 3, Music: Théodore Dubois



Ash Wednesday Services

***February 18
Noon, In-Person
7pm, In-Person & Livestream***

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 20-23, 2026

AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IN PITTSFORD

BLC is partnering with St. Paul's, Pittsford again
for this **FREE** summer's VBS program!

Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost and found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.