

Lent 1
Conversations that try to sway us:
Jesus is tempted in the wilderness

Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent



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

PRELUDE

Prelude and Ostinato

Bernard Wayne Sanders

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
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.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church	ELW 321
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GREETING

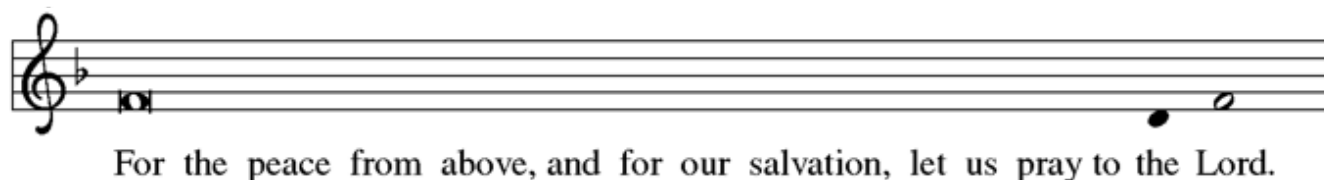
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



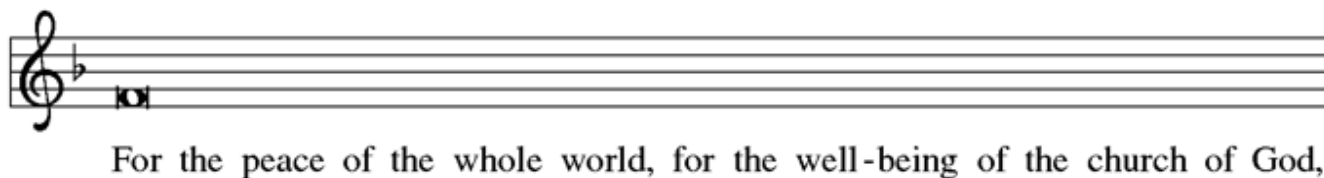
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



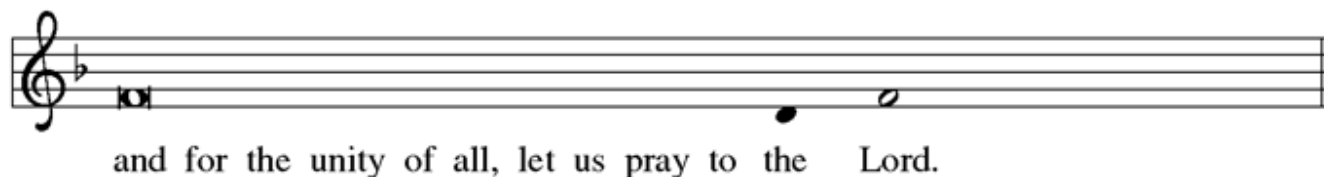
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



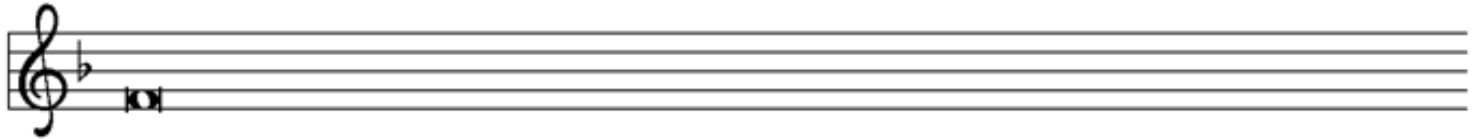
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

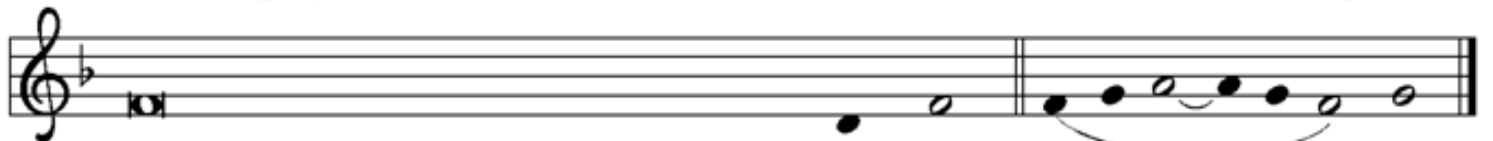


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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.*

Psalm 32

This Lent, we join with our ancestors in faith in praying and singing the Psalms in worship. While written for a specific time and particular situations, the Psalms remain a powerful source of language that expresses the depth of human emotion and experience. The congregation sings the refrain at the direction of the cantor.

REFRAIN

I turn to you, Lord, in times of trouble, and
5 you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Verse 1:

Blessed is He whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes not guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **Refrain**

Verse 2:

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said “I confess my faults to the Lord,” and you took away the guilt of my sin. **Refrain**

Verse 3:

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just; exult all you upright of heart. **Refrain**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Narrator: Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving.

Devil: Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become loaves of bread.

Jesus: It is written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*

Narrator: After that, the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple.

Devil: Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*

Jesus: Again it is written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*

Narrator: Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Devil: I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.

Jesus: Go away, Satan, because it is written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*

Narrator: Then the devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

Angels: **Peace be upon the One who has endured.**

The wilderness is conquered; the Word has prevailed.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

We take a moment to reflect on God's word before singing the hymn of the day.

Stanzas — 1: Choir

2, 3, 4, 5: All

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

#1 God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for Mission Builders, and all those who share their skills to support congregations, outdoor ministries and schools with construction projects; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 celebrate with thanksgiving upon the birth of:

- Matthew Stetson T., great grandson of Sandy S., born on February 8

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- George F., recovering from recent illness
- Kaitlin M., granddaughter of a friend of the GerryAnn and Wayne W., being treated for leukemia
- Gladys G., mother of David G., who is facing multiple health challenges

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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

Abide with Me

(EVENTIDE)

words, Henry F. Lyte

music, William H. Monk / arr. Brian L. Hanson

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from our bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

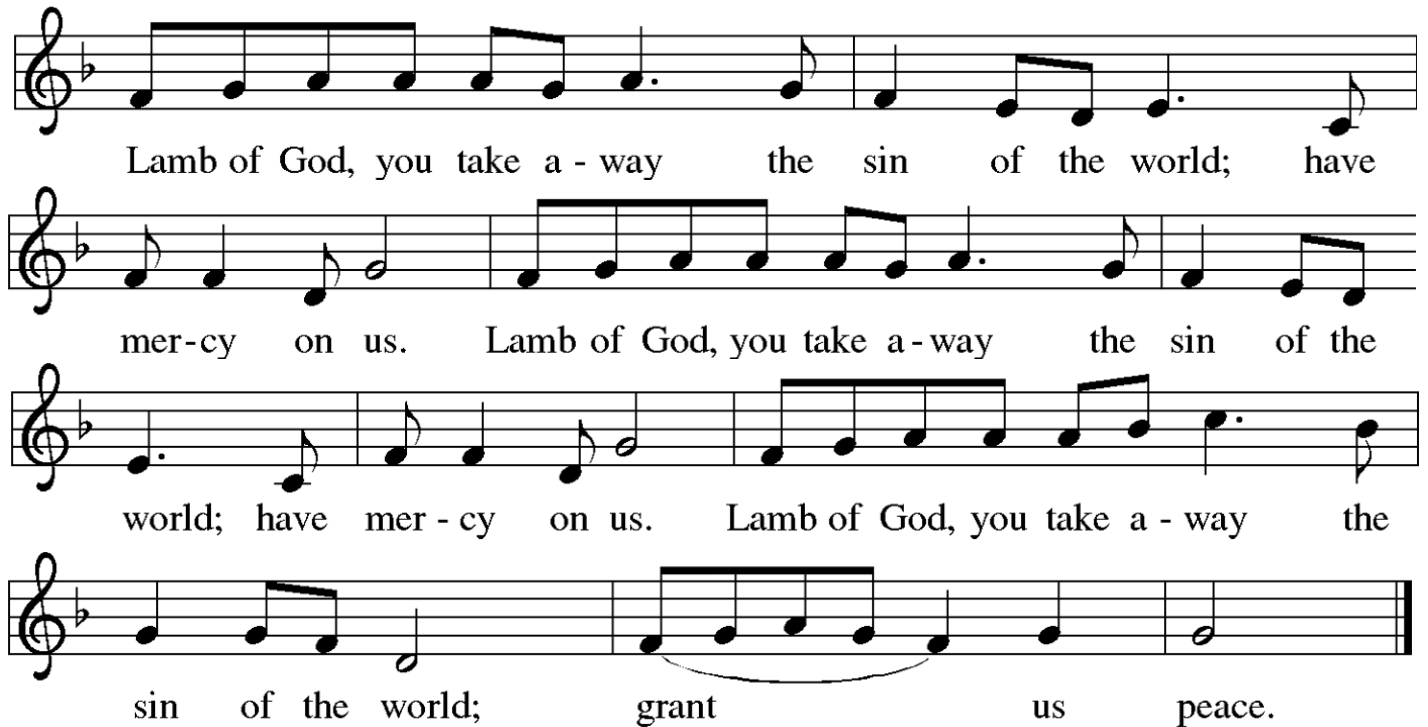
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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



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.

Communion is served at the rail. The ushers will direct you forward by the center aisle. You may kneel or stand, remaining at the rail as long as you desire and return to your seat by the outer aisle. Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.

HYMN FOR COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

*Refrain to be sung by the congregation***Refrain:**

*“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”*

Cantor:

1. *Christ is the bread of life, the true bread sent from the Father. Ref.*
2. *Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, but this is the bread come down from heaven. Ref.*
3. *If we believe and eat this bread, we will have eternal life. Ref.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Brian Holmes

HYMN FOR COMMUNION

Lord, Be Glorified

ELW 744

1. *In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.*
2. *In our song ...*
3. *In your church ...*
4. *In your world ...*

TABLE BLESSING

LEAVING TO SERVE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

O God, You Search Me

text, Psalm 139, adapt.
text / music, Bernadette Farrell

*O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.*

*Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
You have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God my present, my past and future, too.*

SENDING HYMN	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

During the season of Lent we omit the Postlude and provide space for reflection following worship.

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:

Donna Berner, cantor

Jane Morale, violin

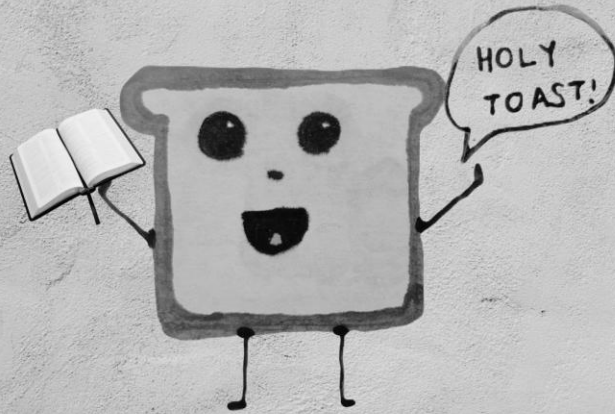
Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to volunteersupport@blcfairport.org and we'll follow up!

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

Sunday Table - March 1st



Join us in the
Fellowship Hall
BLC Mid-Week
Bible Study will host.
Stay afterwards for
games, fun and
conversations.

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!

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Holy Communion, Setting Three; Music: Richard W. Hillert © 1978, 2006 Richard W. Hillert (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

“Prelude and Ostinato”, Music: Bernard Wayne Sanders, © 1998 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (ASCAP) – adm. Warner Bros. Publications U.S. Inc.

“I Turn to You, Lord”, Words: Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11 –ad. William Monaghan, Music: William Monaghan

© 2006, 2009 William Monaghan (ASCAP) – adm. Monaghan Music, LLC

“Abide with Me, Words: Henry F. Lyte, Music William H. Monk, Arranger: Brian L. Hanson

© 2015 Choristers Guild, “Create in Me a Clean Heart”, Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

“What Wondrous Love Is This”, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, Arranger: Brian Holmes, © 2021 Holmes Music

“O God, You Search Me”, Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, © 1992, Bernadette Farrell (adm. Oregon Catholic Press)

The Devil Doesn't Wear Tights

No one believes in the existence of the devil these days, do they? Do you? Perhaps we can thank Hollywood and Halloween's marketing blitz for our casual if not incredulous approach to the devil's existence. Pointy horns, pitch forks, red costumes, and box office ticket sales continue to shape our culture's collective consciousness of the devil. Though red tights and long tails may be a frightening thought as you consider a costume for a Halloween party, they do nothing to communicate the true terror of an honest-to-God encounter with the devil's power.

This Lent we are called to expunge the fantastical images of the devil from our minds and think seriously about the real presence of evil in our world. We know firsthand about the sin that caused, causes, and will cause suffering to us, our loved ones, our neighbors, our global communities, and creation itself. Sin is real; suffering is real; evil is real; indeed, the devil is real. This oppressive, tangible reality is as real as the air we breathe—felt but not always seen. Greed, envy, rage, hatred, war, discrimination, and apathy are just some of the ways the devil's forces wreak havoc upon us. These forces have one goal and one goal only: to turn us away from the will of God.

Matthew's gospel reorients us to the truth of the devil's power, and calls us to name Satan's presence in the world. In the wilderness Jesus encounters an evil as real as its opposite, resurrection. The great tempter seeks to undermine Jesus' mission before he even begins; testimony that evil has much to fear of our Jesus! Nonetheless, Jesus will not be dissuaded. "Away with you, Satan!" proclaims the redeemer of the cosmos. Thus, the Lenten journey begins—a journey that takes us to the cross, where the devil is named and crushed underfoot.