

Lent 5
Heart-to-heart conversations:
Lazarus is raised

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Tammy Waldrop
tune, African American spiritual

The Chancel Bells

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, this story proclaims God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, 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	What Wondrous Love Is This	ELW 666
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GREETING

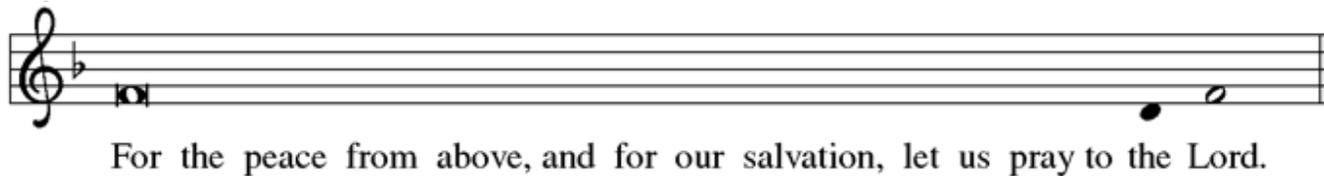
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

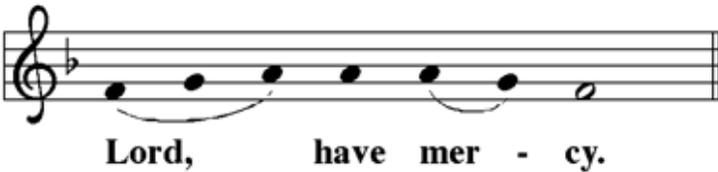
KYRIE



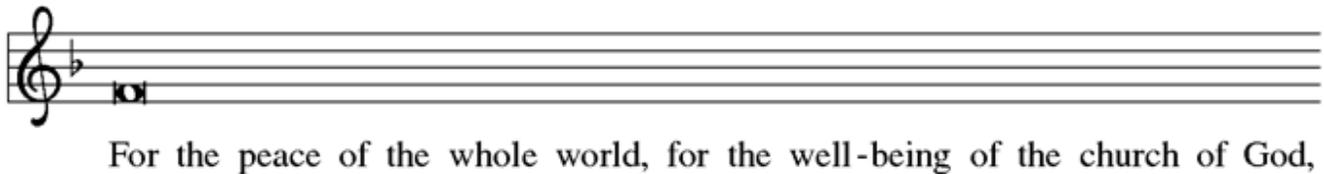
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



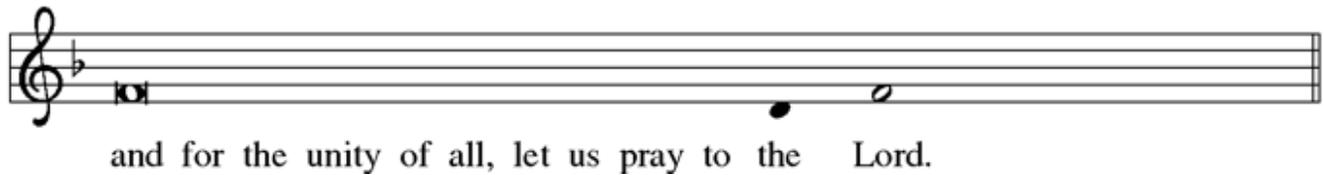
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



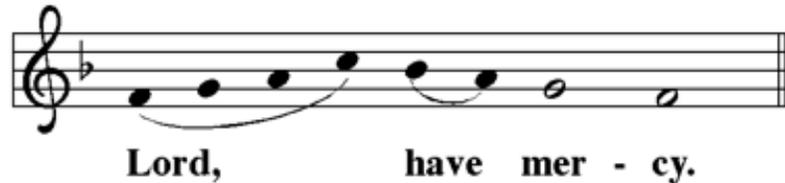
Lord, have mer - cy.



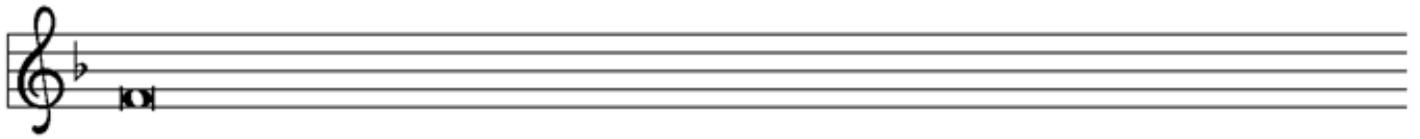
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.

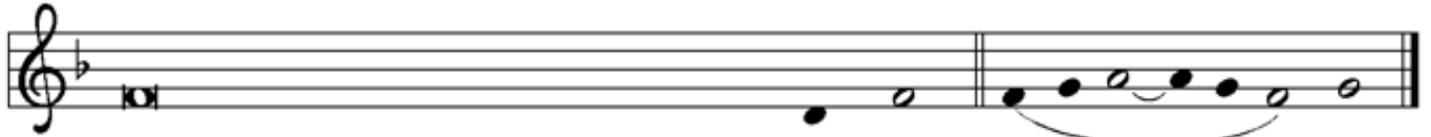


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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.*

Psalm 130

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. Today's Psalm is chanted by the Chancel Choir.

Out of the depths, I cry to you O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to my voice; hear my pleas for mercy.

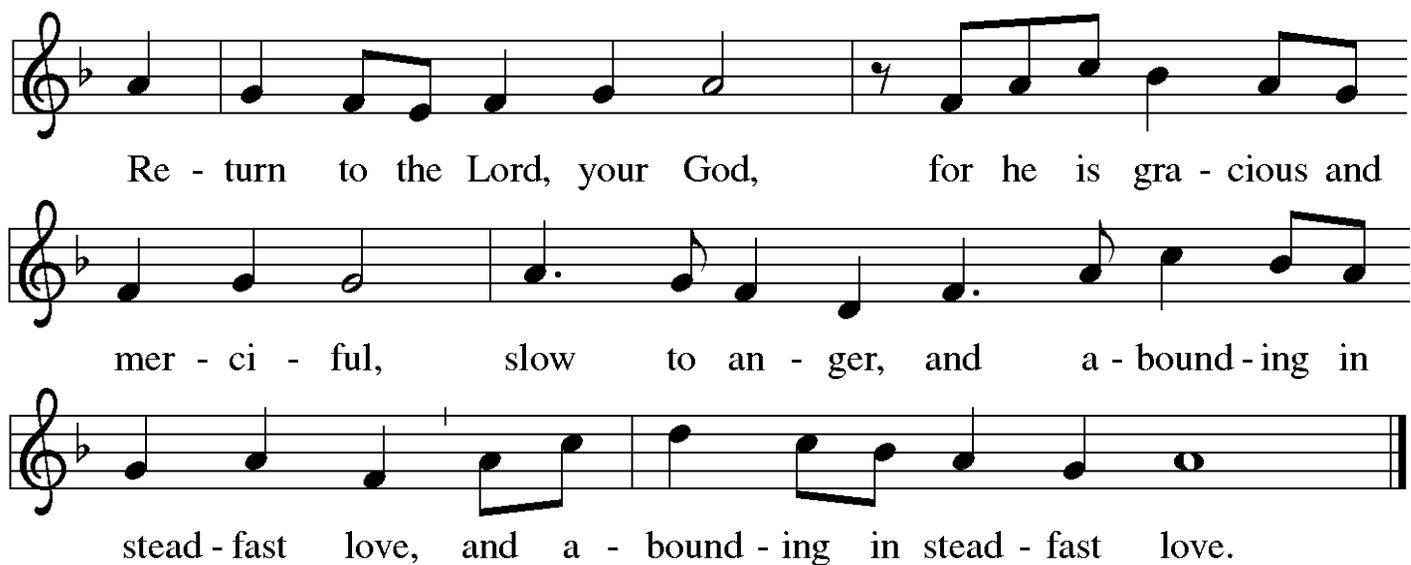
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you, there is forgiveness for our failing, that we may revere you.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits: and in his word I hope;
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen, who wait for the dawn.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love;
And with him is plentiful redemption, and he will redeem us from our sins.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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 John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Narrator: A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.

Messenger: “Lord, the one you love is ill.”

Narrator: When Jesus heard this, he said,

Jesus: “This illness is not fatal. It is for the glory of God so that God’s Son can be glorified through it.”

Narrator: Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples,

Jesus: “Let us return to Judea again.”

Disciples: “Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?”

Jesus: “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day does not stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks at night does stumble because the light is not in them.”

Narrator: After he said these things, he continued,

Jesus: “Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up.”

Disciples: “Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get well.”

Narrator: They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus’ death.

Jesus: “Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I am glad I was not there so that you can believe. Let us go to him.”

Thomas: “Let’s go too so that we may die with Jesus.”

Arrival at Bethany

Narrator: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother’s death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house.

Martha: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

Jesus: “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha: “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Martha: “Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

Mary Comes to Jesus

Narrator: After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary.

Martha: “The teacher is here and is calling for you.”

Narrator: When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. Jesus hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were comforting Mary saw her get up quickly and follow her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to mourn. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet.

Mary: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

Narrator: When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled.

Jesus: "Where have you laid him?"

Crowd: "Lord, come and see."

Narrator: Jesus began to cry.

Crowd: "See how much he loved him. He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

At the Tomb

Narrator: Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance.

Jesus: "Remove the stone."

Martha: "Lord, the smell will be awful. He's been dead four days."

Jesus: "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?"

Narrator: So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said,

Jesus: "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe you sent me."

Narrator: After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice,

Jesus: "Lazarus, come out!"

Narrator: The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth.

Jesus: "Untie him and let him go."

Narrator: Therefore many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

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.

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 We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#2 We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

#3 We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia; 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 pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Damon K, brother of Bob K, who died on 3/11

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Karen A, who is has moved to Advent House

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

(Beautiful Savior, [ELW 838])

text, German hymn, 1677 / tr. Joseph A. Seiss

music, Silesian folk tune / arr. Mark Hayes

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,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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 your 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

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

ACS 1009

Cantors: First 2 times

All: Repeat 6 more times

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

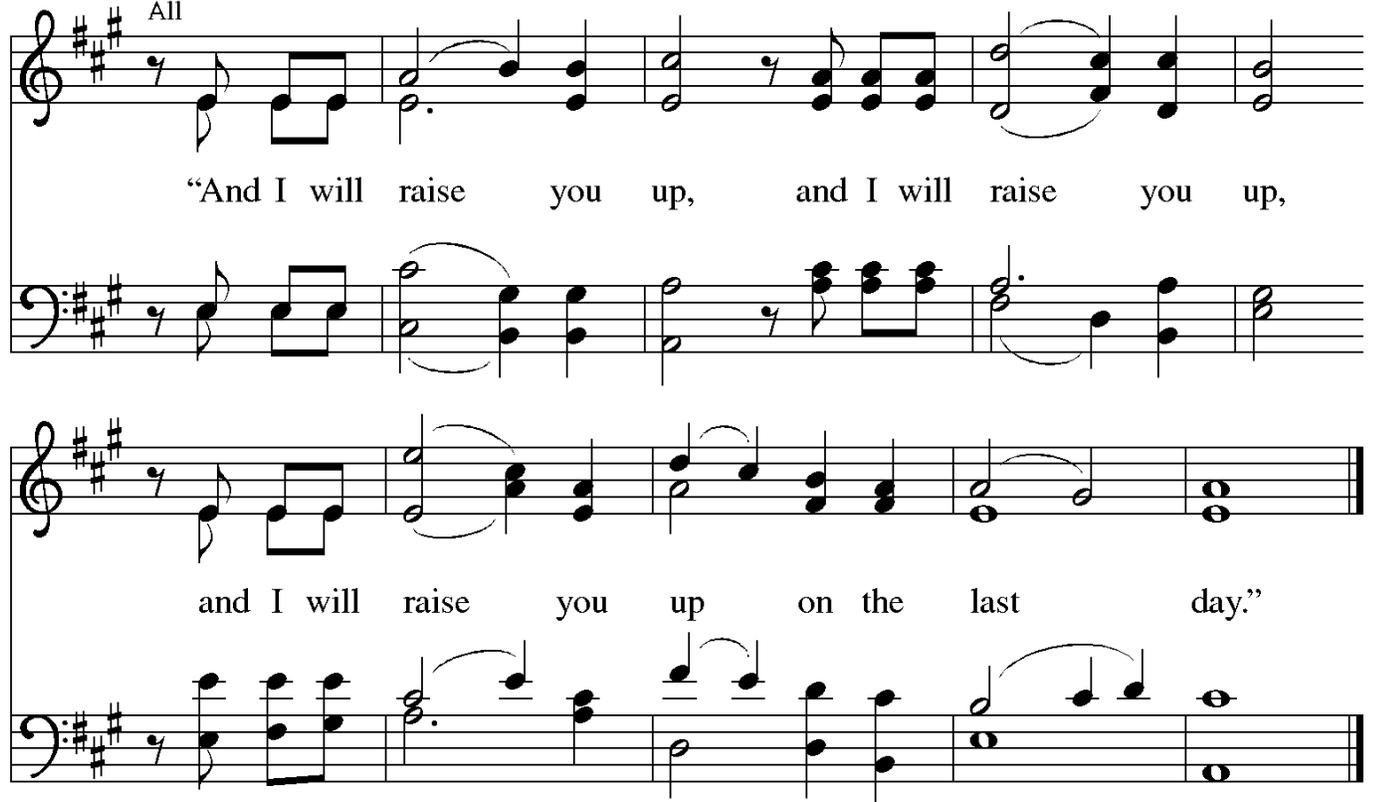
HYMN FOR COMMUNION

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Refrain: sung by All

All



“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Cantor:

- 1 "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons." *Refrain*
- 2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever,
you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*
- 4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*
- 5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

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	My Life Flows On in Endless Song	ELW 763
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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:

Cantors: Donna Berner, Andy Gates, Kathy Moragne,
Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

Percussion: Neil Vokes

Piano: Susan DePasquale

Today's Altar Flowers are given in honor of Jane Morale and Glen Zagorski's 25th Wedding Anniversary.

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

Lent and Holy Week at Bethlehem

Wednesdays in Lent

6 – 6:45 pm – Simple Supper

Each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall we host a simple supper of one-pot dishes. If you would like to contribute to a meal, a week of clean-up, sign up online, or on the kiosk in the Narthex . . .or just show up to enjoy the meal and fellowship.

7 pm – A modified version of Holden Evening Prayer, in person and livestream

Share in worship, prayer, and listen in on conversation.

Holy Week and Easter

During Holy Week we follow Jesus' journey from his triumphal entry into the city to a desolate cross to an empty tomb.

Check out the weekly Star and Ready for Worship emails for more information about Holy Week worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream)

Maundy Thursday, April 2 (in person and livestream)

Noon (in person and livestream) – Individual Absolution and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

6 pm (in person only) – Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, we will begin worship with a shared meal at tables in the Narthex and end in silence in the sanctuary after the altar is stripped

Good Friday, April 3 at 7 pm (in person and livestream) – **Tenebrae Service**

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream) **and**

11 am (in person only)

Easter Breakfast served 9:45 – 10:45 am

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)

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”, Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

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

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” Tune: African American spiritual; Arranger: Tammy Waldrop

© 2013 Agape (adm. Hope Publishing Company)

“Psalm 130” Text: Psalm 130; Music: Anglican chant - Henry Walford Davies

“Fairest Lord Jesus” Text: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677 / tr. Joseph A. Seiss, stanza 4; Music: Silesian folk tune

Arranger: Mark Hayes (ascap) © 2000 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

The Hope of New Life

Hope overcomes despair for God's people: this is the message scripture. The hope of new life is evident in the story of "dry bones" from Ezekiel 37:1-14. The children of Israel declare their hope is lost. The prophet's experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people. Psalm 130 sings of hope in God and God's word. The work of God's Spirit gives hope of new life in Paul's letter to the church at Rome (Romans 8:6-11). The Gospel of John tells the hope-filled story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. The gospel gives us encouraging words to sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ's passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. Martha's wistful words to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here. . . . But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him" (John 11:21-22), reflect the hope of God's people in the face of despair, even in the face of death.

Each text encourages hearers to hope in God and God's word. How do Christians experience unfulfilled hope? This is the challenge for those who interpret today's texts for hearers. Israel's woes are not at an end; other psalms tell of struggle and pain; the Christ-believers at Rome are persecuted; Jesus who raises Lazarus from the dead soon dies. And yet hope is fulfilled as Paul proclaims "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26). Psalm 46 sings of God's presence in time of trouble. A preview of the hope of the resurrection will sustain believers in these final days of Lent (John 20:17). The Christian's confidence in the resurrection of the dead epitomizes their hope in Christ.