

*Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter*



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

PRELUDE

Draw Us to You

(ACH GOTT UND HERR)

Michael Burkhardt
tune, Christoph Peter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. We are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. By our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in us and in all your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	With High Delight Let Us Unite	ELW 368
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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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: PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

- ¹ In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
- ² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
- Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
- ³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
- ⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
- ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.

1 *Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.*



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.

It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know

me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY**In Christ Alone**

Stanzas — 1: Cantor

2, 3, 4: All



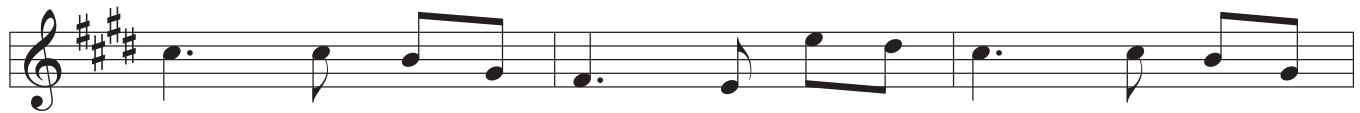
1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death— this is the



light, my strength, my song; This cor - ner - stone, this so - lid
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me. From life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What height of
 ness, scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that
 day, up from the grave He rose a - gain! And as He
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sa - tis -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no scheme of man, can e - ver pluck me from His

cease! My com - for - ter, my all in all- here in the
 fied; for ev - ery sin on Him was laid- here in the
 me; for I am His and He is mine- bought with the
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home- here in the

(Instrumental Interlude)

love of Christ I stand.
 death of Christ I live.
 pre - cious blood of Christ.
 pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

#1 God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#2 God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

#3 God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for synods across the ELCA gathering in assemblies this spring as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and work for justice and peace; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. Merciful God,
receive 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:

- Wayne W, who died on 4/18

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Sherry C, recovering from anticipated shoulder replacement surgery on 4/30
- Dottie, mother of Alli O who is recovering from a brain bleed following a fall

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

Silence for individual prayer.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

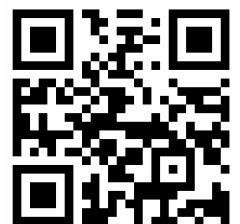
And also with you.

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

Sing to the Lord a New Song

from Mass No. 3 in D Minor

words, Psalm 96, para. Hal H. Hopson

music, Franz Joseph Haydn / arr. H. H. Hopson

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for in the beginning you brought light out of darkness.

From the dust of the earth you made us, lifted us, and breathed life into us.

You make us your people, and promise to be our God.

You walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death.

You condemn the forces of injustice and oppression, and set free the imprisoned.

You set us free from what binds us and go with us toward your new world.

You raise up what is dead and lift up those who are without hope.

Light out of darkness! Hope from despair! Life out of death!

This is your way. We give thanks, and with all Creation we praise you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be the Body of Christ, who have died and have been raised to new life, to serve you in love without fear, in the power of your Holy Spirit and the strength of eternal life. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

United in baptism, 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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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.

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

ELW 816

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

LEAVING TO SERVE

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

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW 864

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

(GAUDEAMUS PARITER)

John Buckley Farlee

tune, Johann Horn

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:

Chrisanne Gates, percussion

Rich Towsley, guitar

Dave Wideman, cantor

Thank you to The Rev. David Gerhardt for proclaiming the word and providing worship leadership today!

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



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

BETHLEHEM
Building
LUTHERAN
Lasting
CHURCH
Community

that follows Jesus

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 17th 10:15 am

*The purpose of the meeting will be to
vote on a proposal to update the
narthex and sanctuary space.*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

PRE-REGISTER NOW!

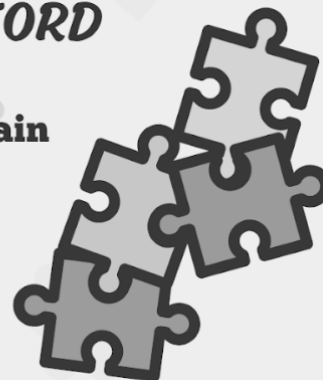
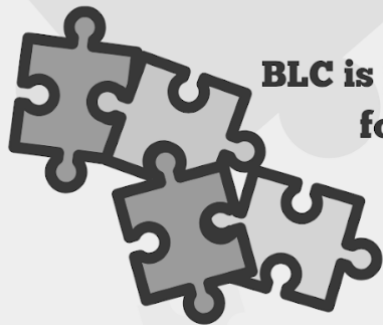
JULY 20-23, 2026



AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IN PITTSFORD

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

Ages Pre-K-5th Grade



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Portions of the Communion liturgy written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net, used by permission

Holy Communion - Setting Four, Music: Ronald A. Nelson, © 1978, 2006 Ronald A. Nelson

Gospel Acclamation: Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, Music: Wilson Niwagila, Arranger: Egil Hovland

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", Lutheran Book of Worship, Text and music © 1978 Augsburg Fortress

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise", Music: Ronald A. Nelson, Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Music

"Draw Us to You" Tune: Christoph Peter – ACH GOTT UND HERR; Music: Michael Burkhardt

© 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music (adm. worshiptogether.com songs)

© 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS) (adm. worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com)

"Sing to the Lord a New Song" Text: Psalm 96, para. Hal H. Hopson; Music: Franz Joseph Haydn

Arranger: Hal H. Hopson © 1999 Birnamwood Publications (ascap)

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" Tune: Johann Horn – gaudeamus partier; Music: Robert Buckley Farlee

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Overview

The words of today's gospel are most often heard during a funeral service. It is a popular choice of scripture for that occasion because the words provide wonderful assurance that the one who has died in Christ has now taken up residence in their heavenly home. The gospel begins by Jesus saying that he will prepare a place for each one of us. But as the text continues, we can see that our place is not an isolated room of our own in a giant heavenly mansion. Jesus' words are less about a place than a relationship: our relationship with Jesus and God the Father. They tell us that in Jesus we know all we need to know about God, and just as we can have a relationship with another human person, we can also have a relationship with God that will one day be as real and obvious as are our relationships with one another. The hope of one day being with Christ fully and forever is as real as the works we are called to do in his name today.

This text allows us the opportunity to contemplate what is ultimately unknowable, yet is also a central part of our faith: what heaven will be like.