



May they be one,  
as we are one

JOHN 17:11

*Sunday, May 17, 2026  
Seventh Sunday of Easter*



BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)



## PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(NETTLETON)

Paul Manz

tune, *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

## 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.**

Stanzas — 1, 2: All  
 3: Choir  
 4, 5: All

## 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. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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: Acts 1:6-14

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the

earth.”<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.<sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.<sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.<sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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 17:1-11**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**



1 *Que-es-ta\_i - gle - sia se - a\_un ár - bol en el*  
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your  
 2 May this church be like a tree there in the  
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



*fon - do de tu ca - sa, que ha - ya fies - ta, y\_a - le -*  
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and  
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -  
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



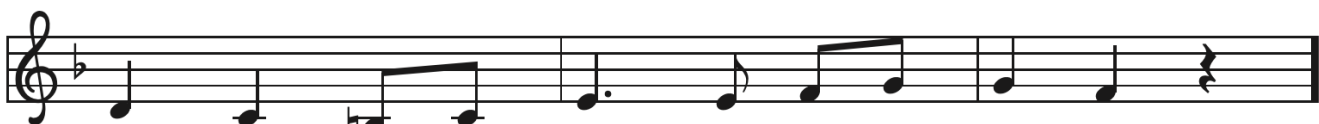
*grí - a y\_o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.*  
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.  
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.  
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



*Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos*  
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised  
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just  
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



*ha - cia\_el cie - lo, que\_es - ta\_i - gle - sia sea fe -*  
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of  
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry  
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that




*cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.*  
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.  
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.  
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

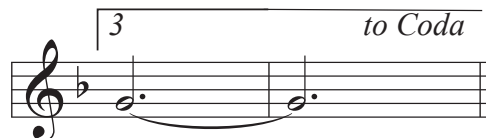
*Refrain*



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to~a las a - guas  
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da~e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



*3* to Coda  
Dios.  
God. \_

*Coda*



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to~a las a - guas  
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da~e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

**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 O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology and for scientists, science teachers, researchers and church leaders who work to explain the implications of science and technology for Christian faith; 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 grieve, especially the family and friends of:*

- Christine C, sister-in-law of Sherry C, who died May 10
- Mark S, childhood friend of Roger K, who died May 2

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- Nancy F who has been hospitalized
- Marcy A who is recovering from surgery
- Willis, brother-in-law of Kathy M, who is facing health challenges
- Brian K who is recovering from surgery

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](http://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

You Do Not Walk Alone

text, Traditional Irish blessing  
music, Elaine Hagenberg

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**

United at the Table

ELW 498

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW 403

**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**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ELW 851

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Festival Alleluia

(LASSST UNS ERFREUEN – ELW 367)

Dan Miller  
tune, German hymnal, 1623

## **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

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org)



# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

**B**ETHLEHEM  
*Building*  
**L**UTHERAN  
*Lasting*  
**C**HURCH  
*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!**

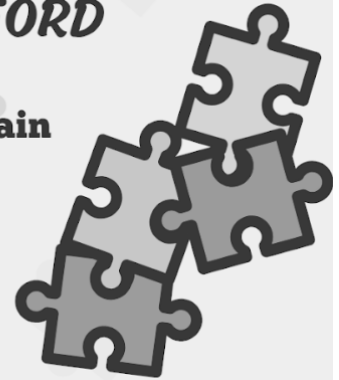
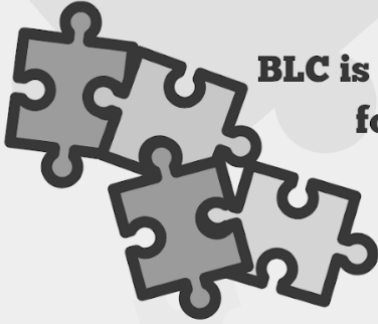
**JULY 20-23, 2026**



**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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



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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

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Tune: *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

Music: Paul Manz © 1992 MorningStar Music Publishers

"May This Church Be like a Tree" Text: Pablo D. Sosa; tr. Andrew Donaldson

Music: Pablo D. Sosa; Spanish text and music © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc.

English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc.

"You Do not Walk Alone" Text: Traditional Irish blessing

Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2019 Benkenhorst Press, Inc.

"Festival Alleluia" Tune: last uns erfreuen – *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Music: Dan Miller © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers



## Overhearing Jesus

At the ascension we, like the disciples in today's reading in Acts, are left looking at the sky. But in the High Priestly Prayer (John 17), Jesus brings us back to earth. In the prayer he speaks not only from the perspective of the risen and ascended one, but as the Word of God, now made flesh. The prayer anticipates the accomplishments of this Word, which does not return empty (Isa. 55:11), namely in the fulfillment of the "hour" of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It is as if Jesus has already ascended "to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20:17), and has returned to tell us something vital.

As we overhear Jesus, we learn that God's character and motive are identical to those of Jesus, who has now, fully and completely, "made God's name known." We no longer have to speculate about the nature of God. God's purposes and love are made known in Jesus. But we also learn about ourselves. Jesus' prayer frequently mentions the "world"—the world at once hostile to God and God's anointed, and yet also beloved of God (John 3:16). With Jesus' commissioning today we have our work to do, to make God known in and through Christ Jesus. The Living One works through us as "words within the world," who no longer seek meaning among the dead, but are empowered to make known the vibrant, new reality of Easter.