

*Sunday, May 24, 2026*  
*Day of Pentecost*



**BETHLEHEM**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## PRELUDE

Komm, heiliger Geist  
(Come, Holy Spirit)

Georg Friedrich Kauffmann

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. In 1 Corinthians 12:3-13, Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*

## 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.**

## 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.

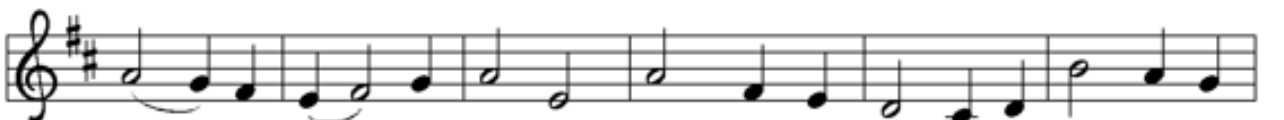
*Refrain*



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, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **READING: Acts 2:1-21**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were

amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”<sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

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.



## **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, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We remember, mourn and give thanks for those in the military who gave their lives for justice, peace and the freedom of our country and all nations; and we pray 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:*

- Charlie G, cousin of Chris M, who died on May 13
- 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:*

- Tom S who is recovering from hip surgery
- Julie M who is recovering from a broken ankle
- Nancy F who has been hospitalized
- Marcy A 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

Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

(WAREHAM, ELW 729)

Henry Coleman  
tune, William Knapp

### OFFERTORY



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



bles-sing. 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**

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

ELW 399

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

**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**

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW 400

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Sortie sur l'Hymne "Veni Creator"

(Postlude on the Hymn "Come Creator, Spirit" – ELW 577)

René Quignard

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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

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"Komm, heiliger Geist" – Come Holy Spirit Music: Georg Friedrich Kauffmann

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"Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove" Tune: WAREHAM; Setting: Henry Coleman

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"Sortie sur l'Hymne Veni Creator Tune: Sarum plainsong, mode VIII

Music: René Quignard © 1984 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

## **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

**Special Thanks** to Susan DePasquale, organist/pianist, for assisting us with today's worship.

**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)

**The red flowers that signify Pentecost and decorate the Sanctuary were given to God's glory by the following:**

Anonymous donations

In Honor of Pastor Hoffman from her LYLAS

In Honor of Friends and Family by Sandy Goehle

In Memory of William & Mary Walsh, Erich & Anna Maxa by Rolf & Margaret

In Memory of Our Parents by Jeff & Ruth Hedin

In Memory of Irene Kiesow by Joan Kiesow

In Memory of Our Parents by Kathy & Jim Moragne

In Memory of Steven French by Carolyn French

In Memory of Bob Lohr by Judy Lohr

*We regret any omissions or errors made.*

A promotional graphic for Vacation Bible School (VBS) featuring a background of faint puzzle pieces. The text is centered and reads: "VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)", "PRE-REGISTER NOW!", "JULY 20-23, 2026", "AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IN PITTSFORD". To the right of the date is a QR code. Below the main text, it says "BLC is partnering with St. Paul's, Pittsford again for this FREE summer's VBS program!" and "Ages Pre-K-5th Grade". There are two clusters of puzzle pieces, one on the bottom left and one on the bottom right.

**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**

## God Gives More than Enough

It is the “first day of the week” (John 20:19), the day of the new creation, but to those locked away in the upper room in fear, the world is as it always has been. So entrenched are they in the ways of grief and guilt that the Risen One in their midst needs to offer his life-giving invitation twice: “Peace be with you.” The logic of the new age is peace, not retribution; forgiveness, not vengeance. With the invitation to new life comes also the means: the gift of the Holy Spirit, breathed upon them and within them. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so now are these disciples sent as witnesses to God’s saving work.

Pentecost is therefore the crowning achievement of the Jesus story. Now, more than ever, these huddled disciples would have just cause to sing the “Dayenu” (“It would have been enough”) verses from the Passover seder meal, but revised: It would have been enough for the Word and wisdom of God to have been born in the flesh . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for the Word to grow to adulthood and share his stunning parables about God’s gracious activity in the world . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for this Word to say to his enemies, “Father, forgive them” . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough for this Word to have died on a cross for us . . . Dayenu! It would have been enough that he rose again in blessing, not vengeance . . . Dayenu! But now, beyond what we would even expect—the Word becomes our word and it is written on our hearts at Pentecost . . . Dayenu! It is enough, and more than enough to enflame our ministry of reconciliation in a world in need of a healing word.