

Sunday, October 11, 2026
20th Sunday after Pentecost

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, op. 122, no. 5 — Johannes Brahms
(Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness – ELW 488) — tune: Johann Crüger

Toccata in C Major — Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Red hymnal - **ELW** - Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Blue hymnal - **ACS** - All Creation Sings

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.

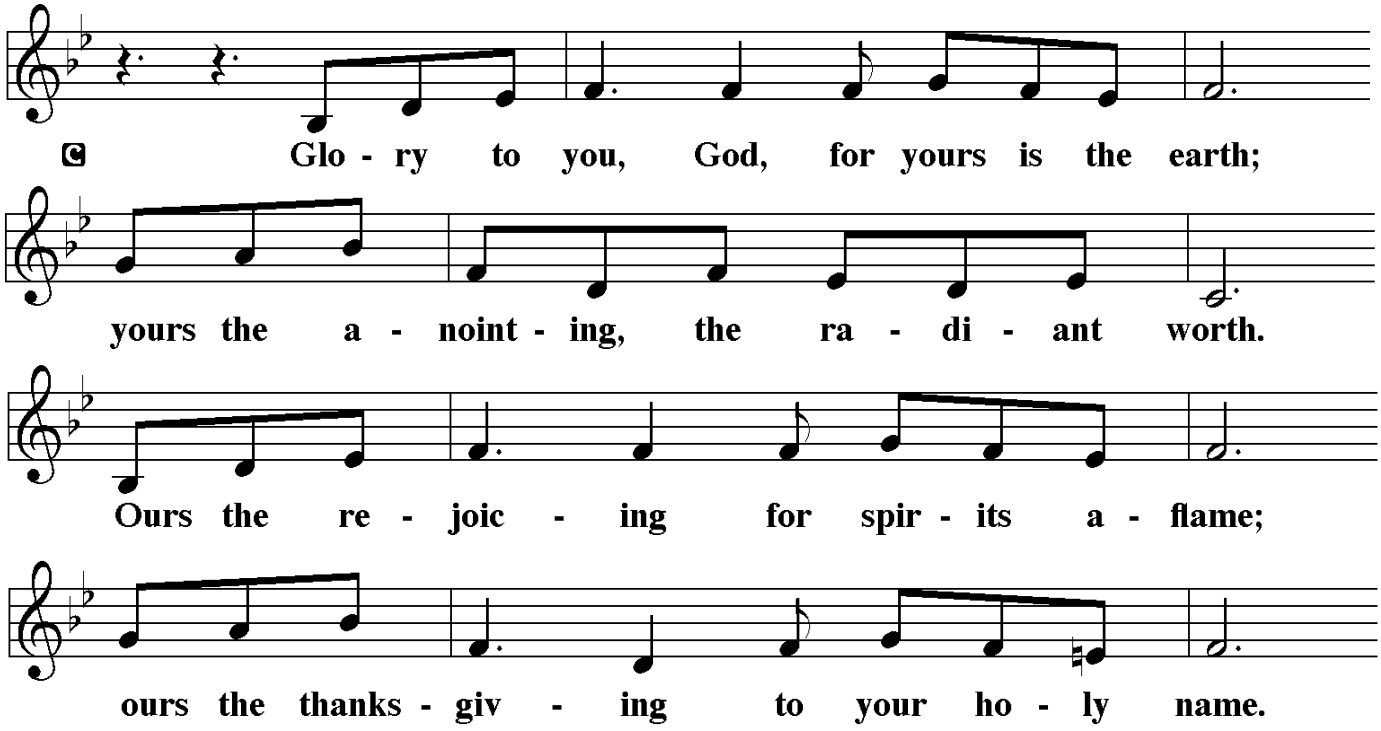
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your 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.

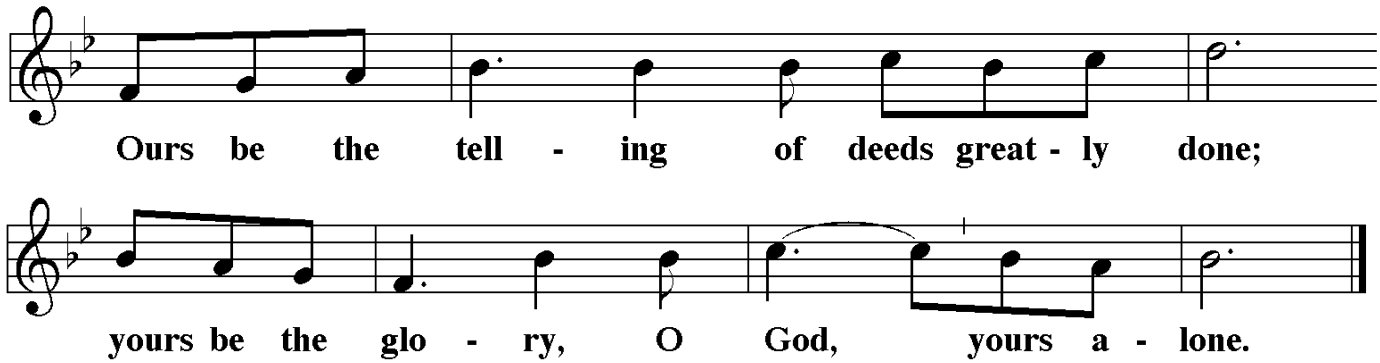
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN	The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing	ELW 531

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP WITH JOY!

All kids ages 3 through grade 5 are welcome to a special worship time with a small snack and song, a time of hearing the Word, conversation and activities! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. Children will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion

READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

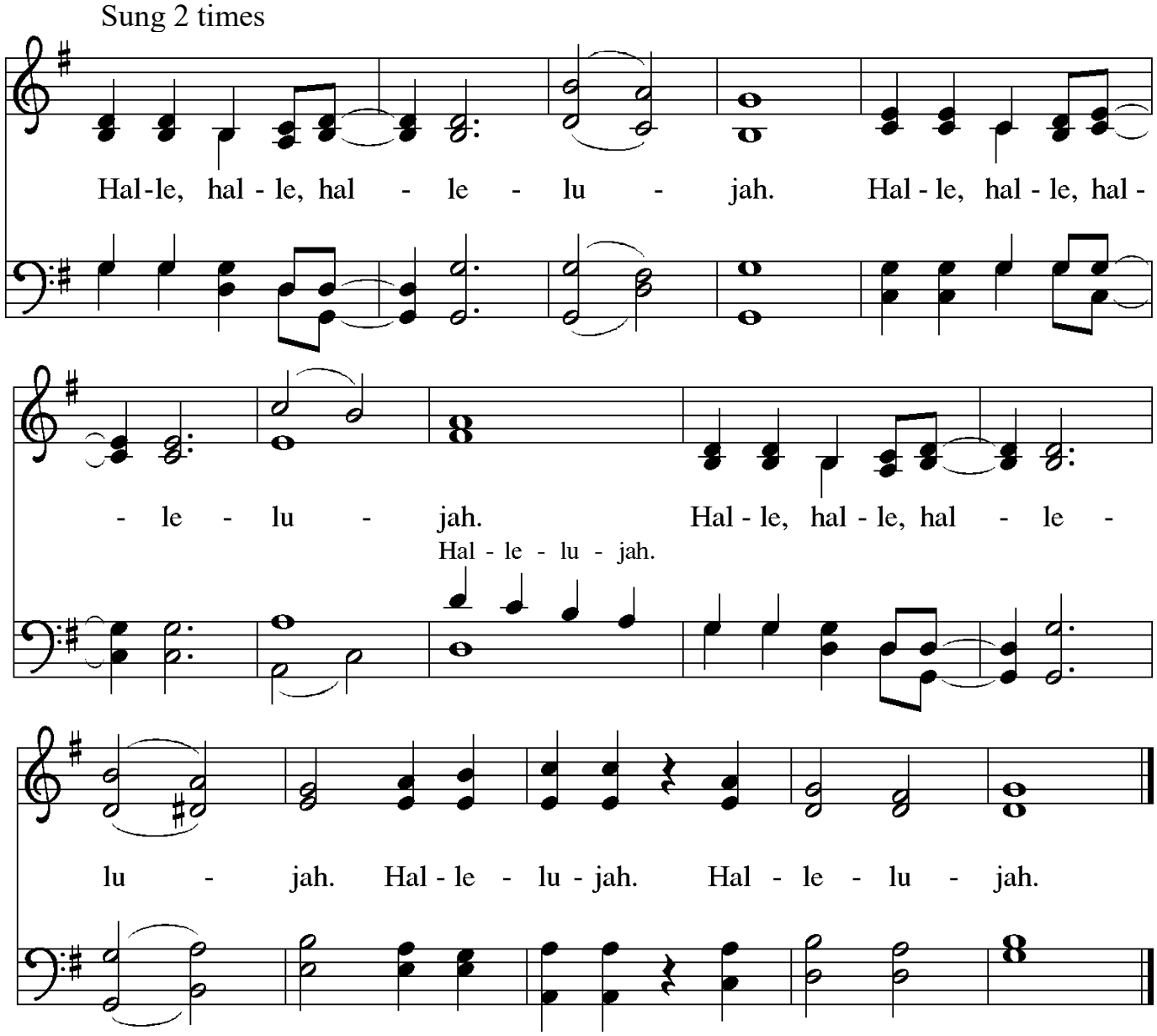
After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

[1] O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
[2] For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
[3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

[4] For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
[5] the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

[6] On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
[7] And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
[8] he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
[9] It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven
may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his
slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would
not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited:
Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' 5 But they
made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the
rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He
sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to
his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore
into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'
10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both
good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was
not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here
without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are
chosen."

The gospel of the Lord.

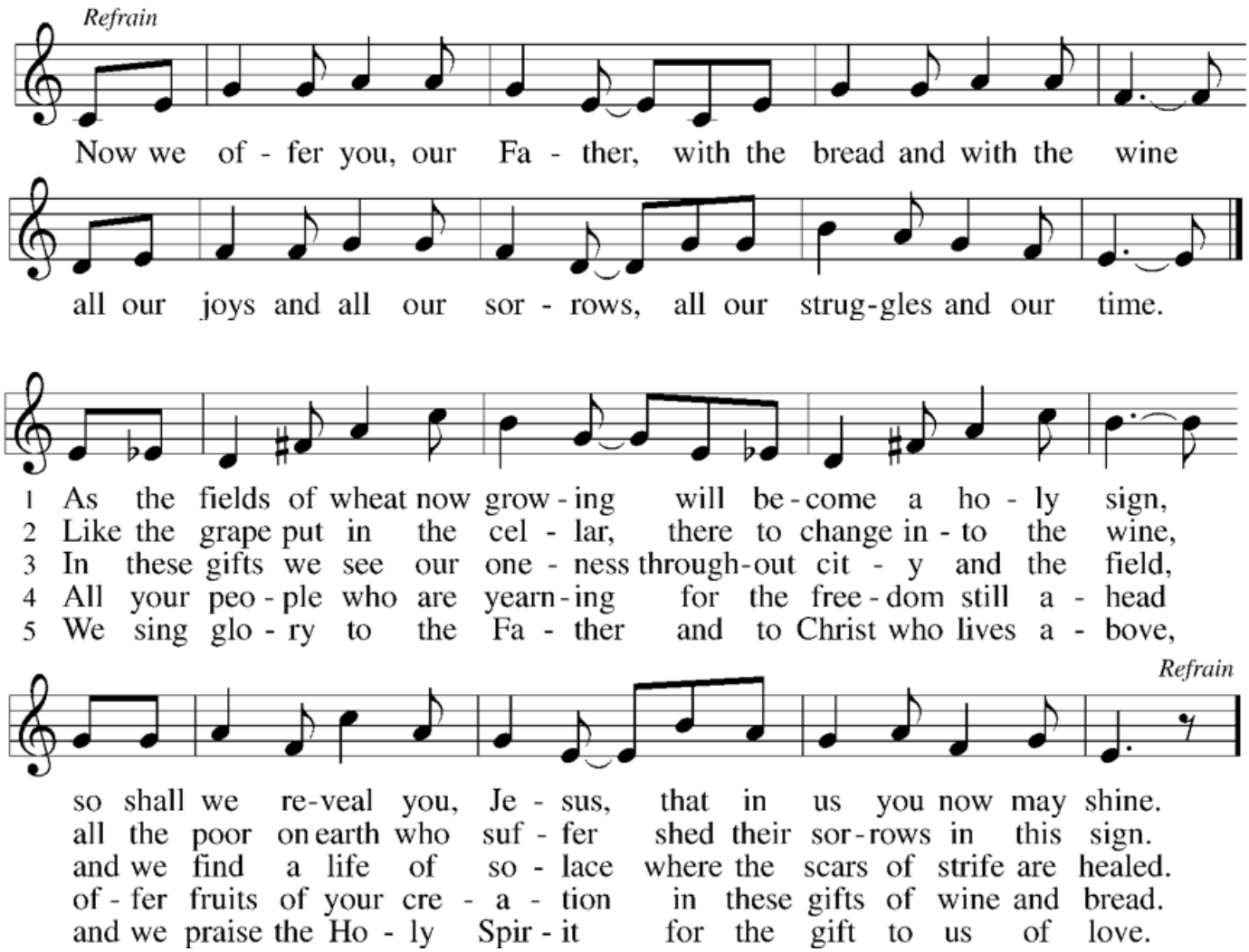
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY	Now We Offer	WOV 761

Stanzas — 1: Cantor

2, 3, 4, 5: All



SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM Page 227

We celebrate the baptism of Wyatt John Cavilia, born October 13, 2025.
Wyatt's parents are Cori and Stephen Cavilia.
His Sponsors are Justin and Bernice Adams.

CONGREGATION WELCOMES WYATT

In baptism we remember you are part of God's family. Even before you could talk or listen, God chose you because God loves you.

Today, God has made you part of God's big family. The water sprinkled on your head reminds everyone of God's promise. Thank you, God, for choosing Wyatt. Thank you, God, for loving Wyatt. Thank you, God for making us all part of your big and loving family.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

#1 Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

#2 You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork.
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

#3 Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for ministries which support people living in poverty, illness, and neglect; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. In all our endeavors, remind us that we who are many, are one body in Christ.
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We know that you love all people, you see our needs, and you know our cares and concerns, our hopes and joys.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the baptism of:

- Wyatt John C. the son of Cori A and Stephen C, and brother of Hazel

We pray for those who are serve, especially:

- Zainab M, deployed on the USS Roosevelt

We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:

- Carson H, son of Ruth H's cousin, who died on 9/29
- Ray, friend of Dave W, who died on 9/26
- Adam, friend of Kim K, who died on 9/21

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Jessica, friend of Alli O'M
- Kathy S, who is back home after undergoing tests for an ongoing illness

Hear these concerns we raise in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
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.

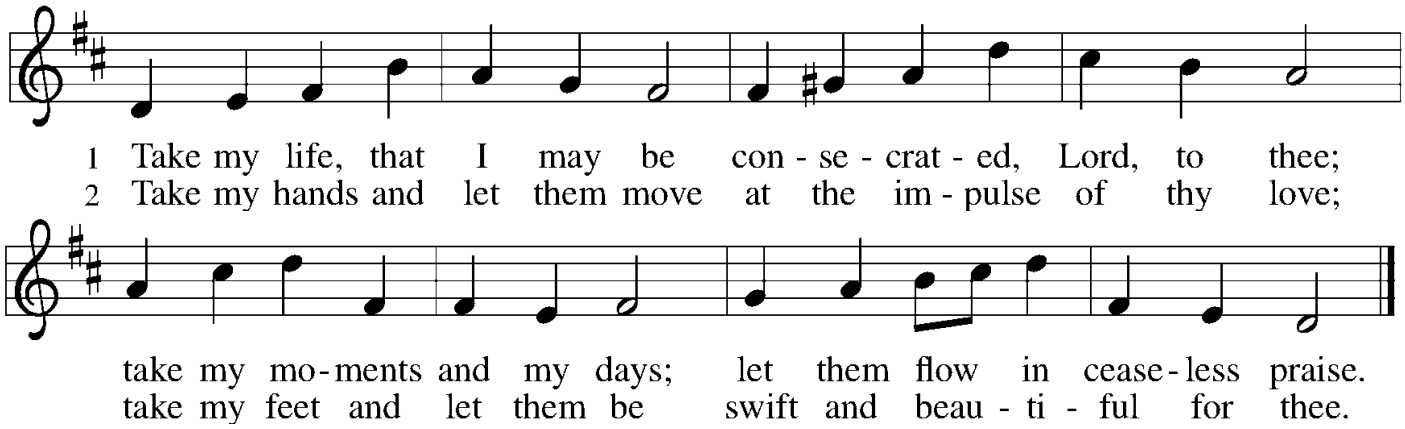
OFFERING OF MUSIC

O Sacred Feast — Healey Willan

from *Six Motets*, No. 4

The Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One in body, one in spirit, 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.

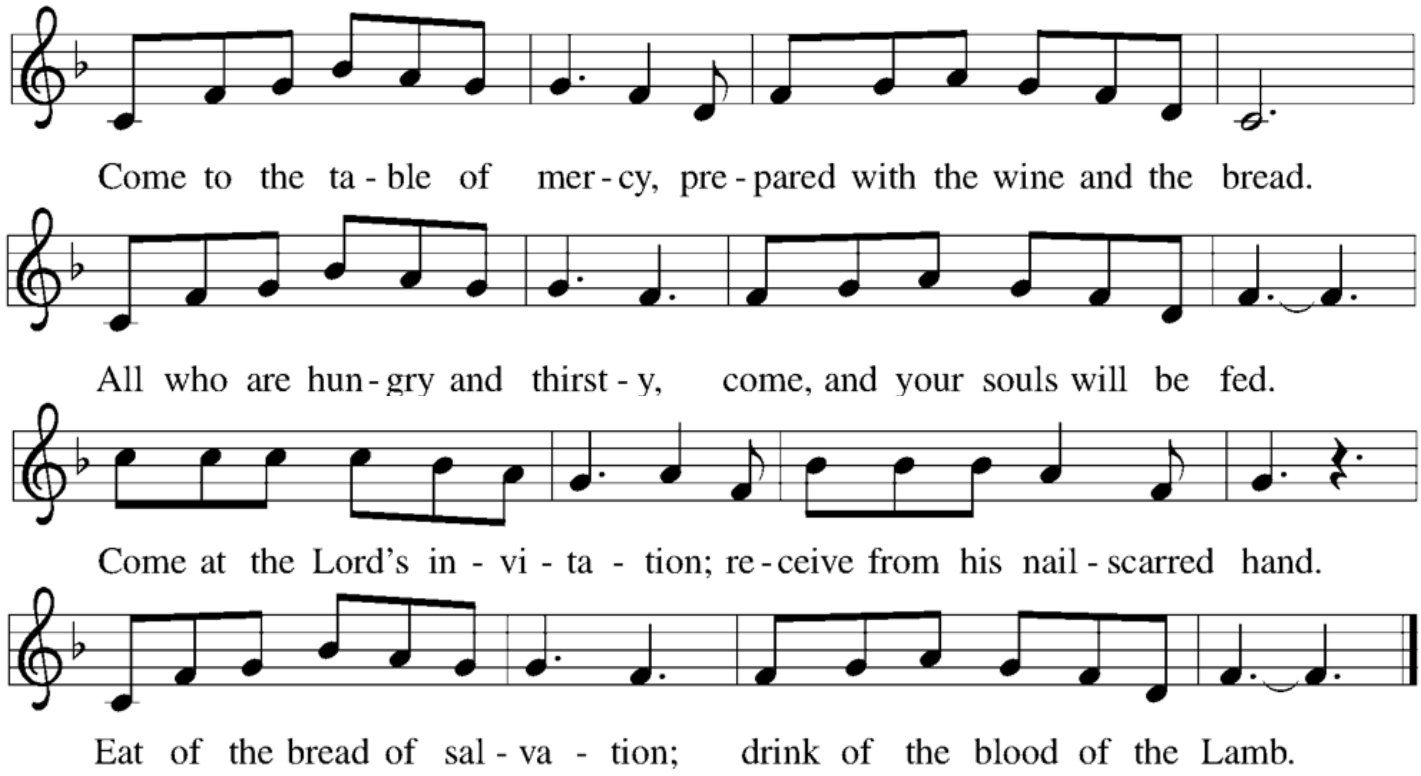
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
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

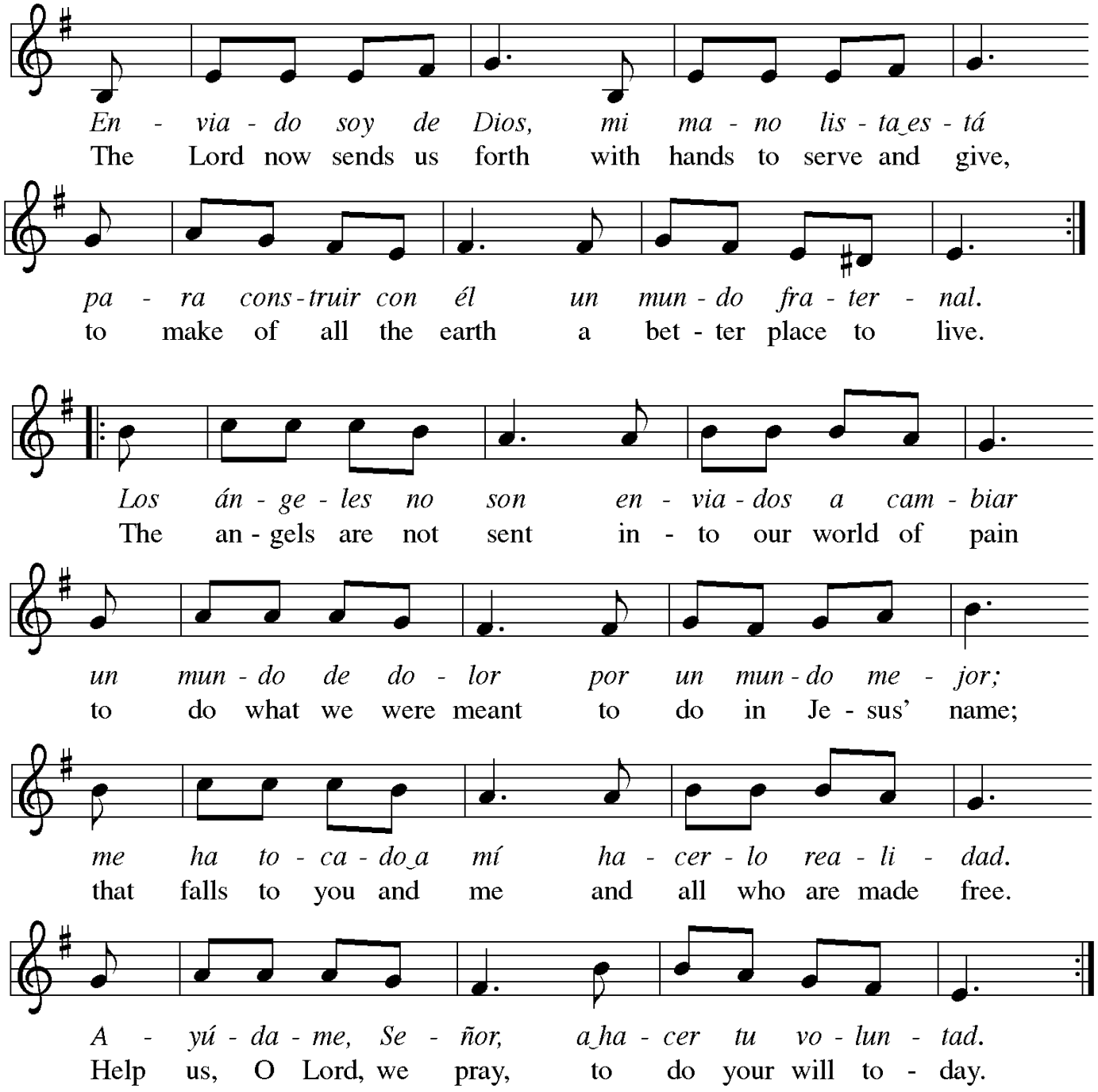


HYMNS FOR COMMUNION

Now We Join in Celebration	ELW 462
Thine the Amen	ELW 826

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



LEAVING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!	ELW 873

Stanzas — 1, 2: All
3: High voices
4: Low voices
5, 6: All

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
Trumpet Rondeau in F Major — David Lasky

✠ ✠ ✠

The flowers on the altar are in memory of Chick Forney by his wife, Kathy Forney

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:
Cantor: Dave Wideman
Percussion: Margie Gaul, Neil Vokes, Dave Wideman

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
Building
LUTHERAN
Lasting
CHURCH
Community

that follows Jesus



Annual Meeting- Oct. 25th, 10:15am

in-person only

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"Glory to You, God" *All Creation Sings* – Holy Communion, Setting 12
Text: Susan Palo Cherwien; Music: J. Bert Carlson © 2020 Augsburg Fortress
"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" – WOV 612 Music: Caribbean traditional
Arranger: Mark Sedio Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
"Take My Life, That I May Be" – ELW 685, stt. 1, 2 Text: Frances R. Havergal, alt.
Music: William H. Havergal © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
"Come to the Table" – ELW 481 Text: Claire Cloninger; Music: Martin J. Nystrom
© 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music (adm. Word Music)
"Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele" , Tune: Johann Crüger, Music: Johannes Brahms
"Toccata in C Major", Music: Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
"Now We Offer", Text: Misa popular nicaragüense, tr. Gerald Thorson, Tune: Nicaraguan folk
Arranger: Vernon Hamberg, Spanish text © Editorial Progreso, S.A. Mexico,
Tr. © 1989 Lutheran World Federation, Arr. © 1989 Augsburg Fortress
"O Sacred Feast, Music: Healey Willan, © 1924 The H. W. Gray Co.
"Trumpet Rondeau in F Major" , Music: David Lasky, © 2013 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

Expensive Wedding. Expensive Grace.

An average wedding in North America can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars—or more! From the venue to flowers to food, invitations to music to photos, formal wear to centerpieces to officiants, getting married is not cheap.

In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap; it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives, sharing this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.