

Sunday, November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Christ qui es la lumière du jour, op. 28/9 — Marcel Dupré
(O Christ who art the Light of the World)

Rejoice, Rejoice — Mark Sedio
(Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn – ELW 242) — tune: Marty Haugen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

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.

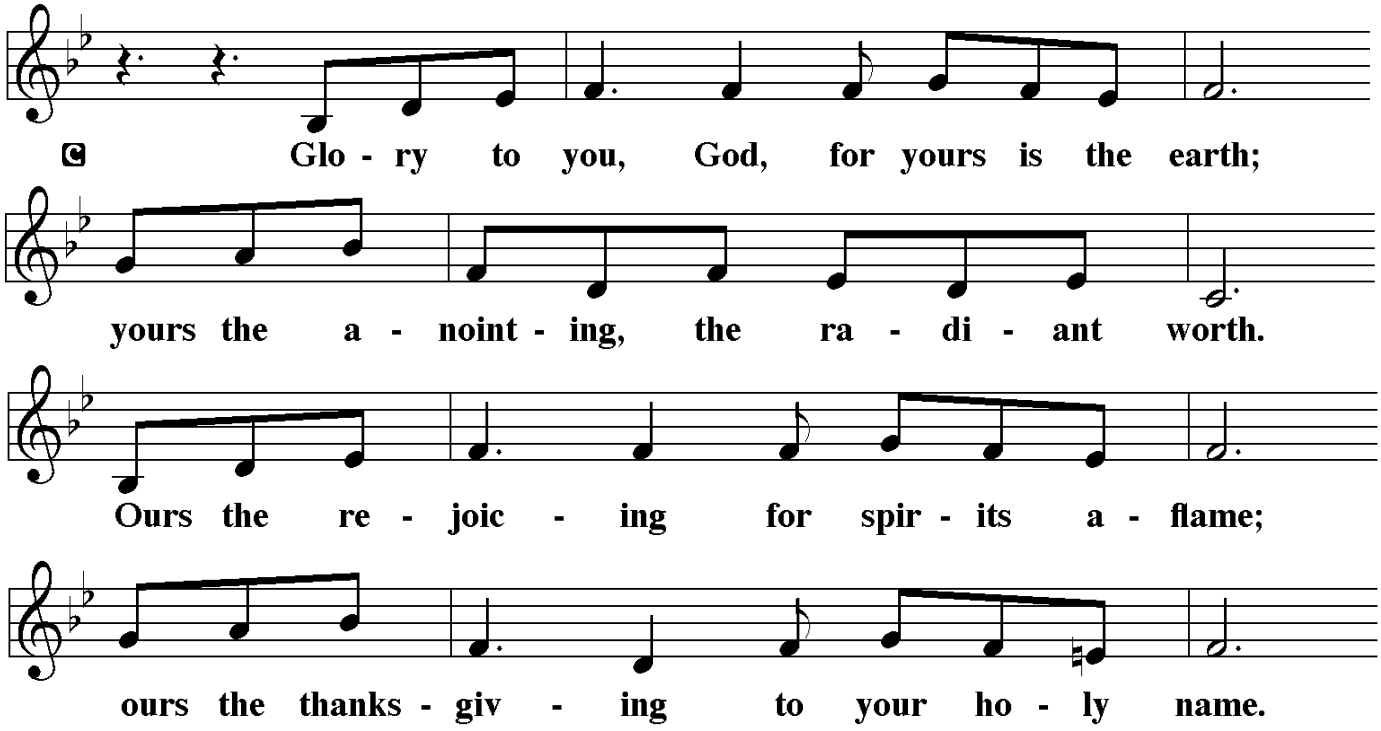
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your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

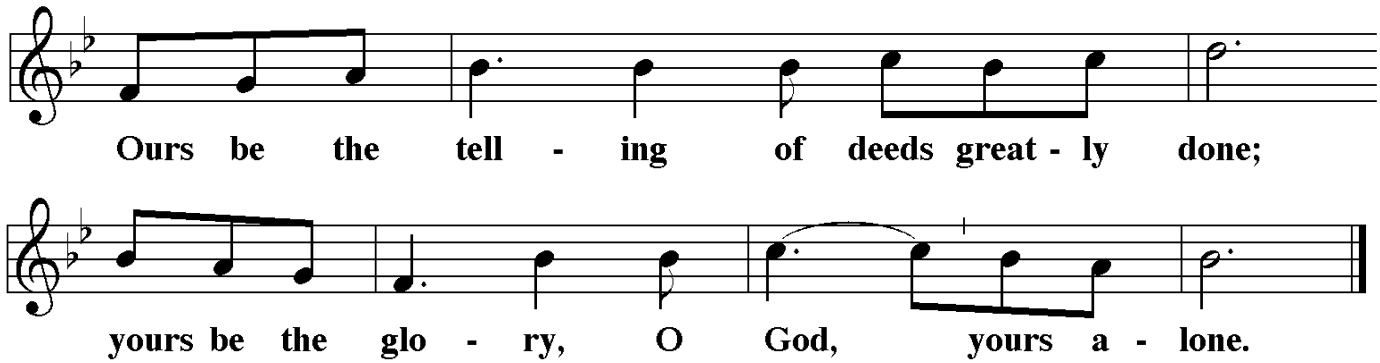
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.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

GATHERING HYMN	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying	ELW 436

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. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

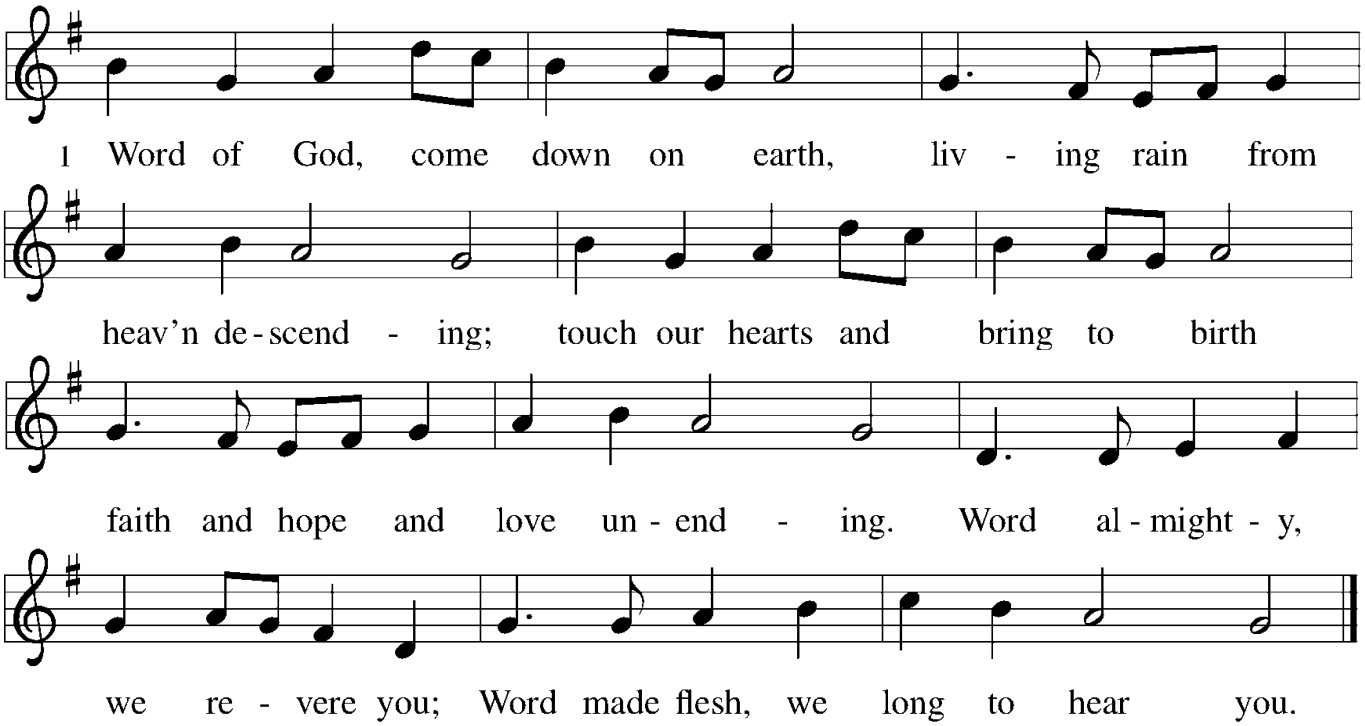
DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP WITH JOY!
All kids ages 3 through grade 5 are welcome to a special worship time with a small snack and song, a time of hearing the Word, conversation and activities! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. Children will return during the offering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

READING: Amos 5:18-24
In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13
Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy

some for yourselves.’ [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning ACS 949

Stanzas — 1: Cantor
2, 3, 4: All

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

#1 You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#2 You create and sustain the earth’s natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature’s balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

#3 You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for Veterans, giving thanks for their service to their country and acknowledging the wounds they carry on our behalf; and we remember our siblings in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. In all our endeavors, remind us that we who are many, are one body in Christ. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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:

- birth of Jonah Douglas L, the grandnephew of Kathy M, born on10/29

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

- Jill M, friend of Mary Jane B, who died on 10/31

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David S, younger brother of Bob S, who suffered a stroke on 10/29
- Mark F, who is recovering from an anticipated cardiac procedure on 11/6

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

Silence for individual prayer.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S MEAL

THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

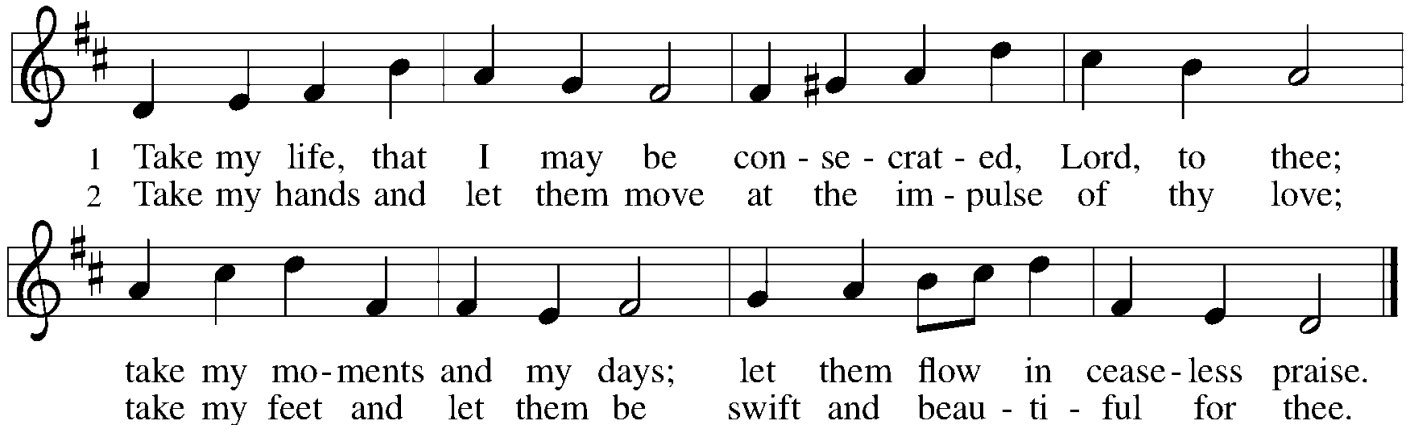
Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

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
Make My Life an Alleluia — Ruth Elaine Schram

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.
in the highest.

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

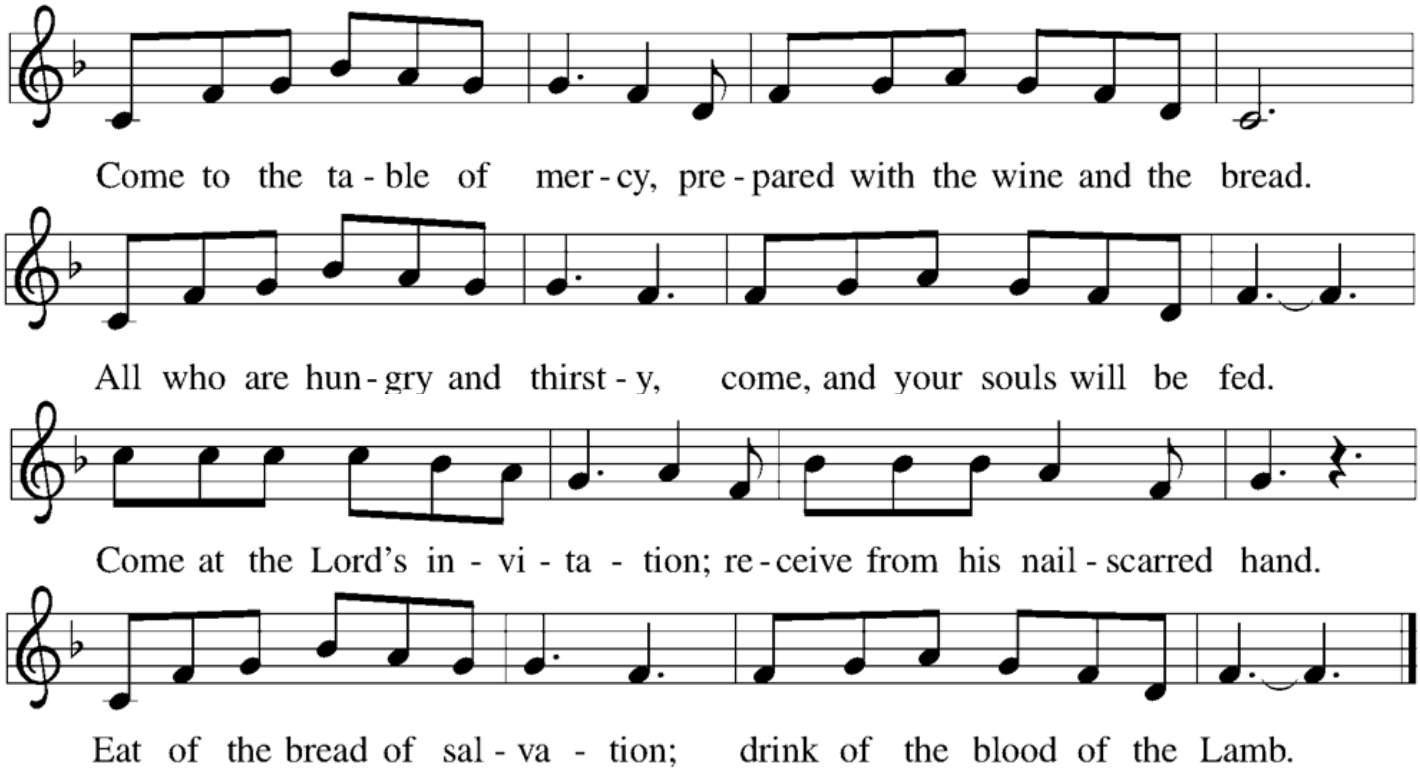
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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.

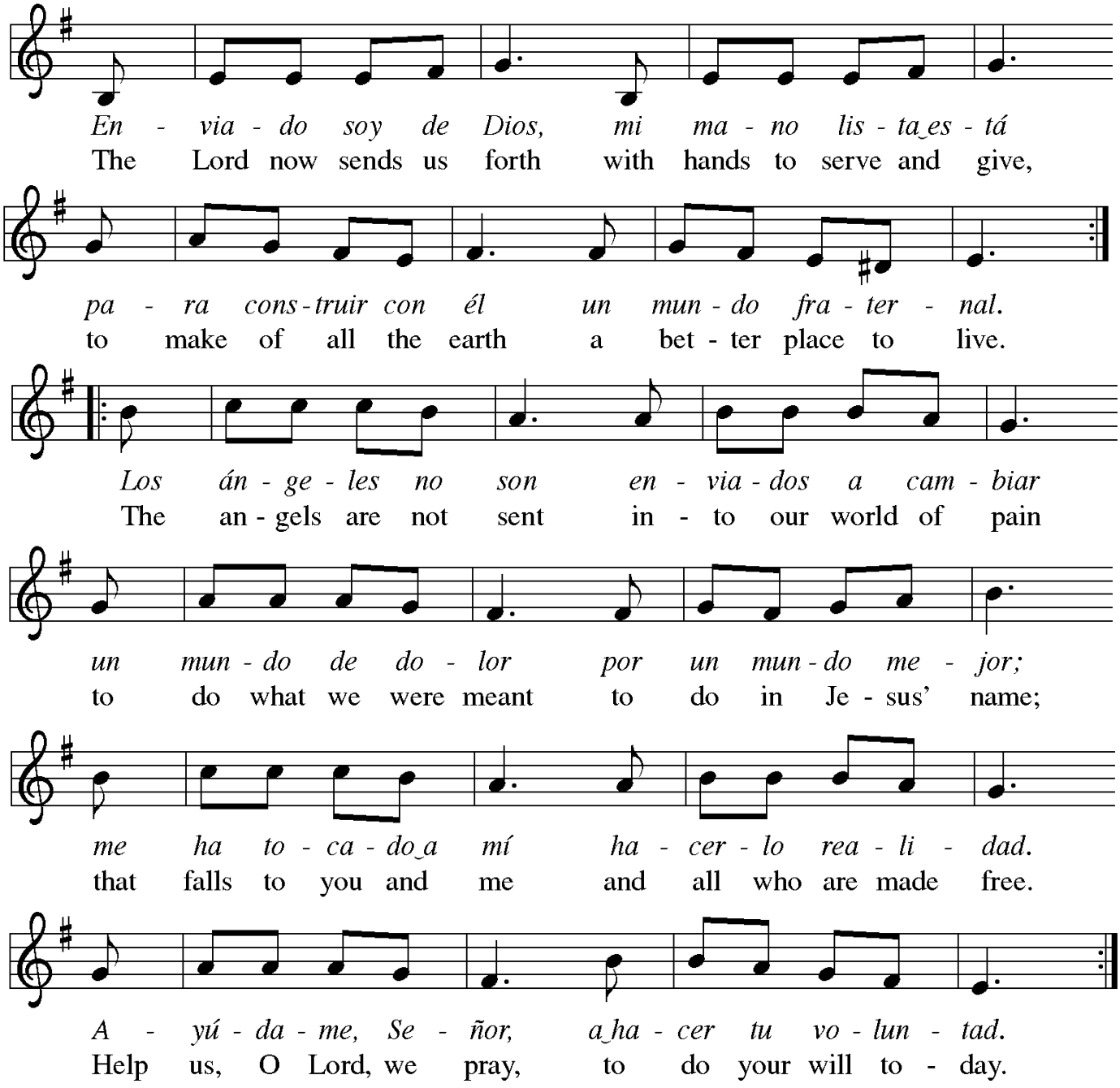
THE COMMUNION



HYMNS FOR COMMUNION	
My Lord, What a Morning	ELW 438
Blessed Assurance	ELW 638

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	Christ, Be Our Light	ELW 715

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Haf trones lampa färdig" Paul Manz
(Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244) tune: Swedish folk

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:
Neil Vokes, cantor
James Berner, guitar
Glen Zagorski, 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 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

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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
"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" – WOV 612 Text: James Quinn
Music: Johann R. Ahle Text © James Quinn, SJ (adm. Selah Publishing Co., Inc.)
"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)
"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford
Music: Anonymous, Central America; English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress
"Christ qui es la lumière du jour" – op. 28/9 – (O Christ who art the Light of the World)
Music: Marcel Duprè © 1932 The H.W. Gray Co. (adm. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)
"Rejoice, Rejoice" – (Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn, ELW 242)
Tune: Marty Haugen; Music: Mark Sedio
Tune © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Arr. © 1996 Augsburg Fortress
"Make My Life an Alleluia" Text and Music: Ruth Elaine Schram
© The Lorenz Publishing Company (adm. The Lorenz Corporation)
"Haf trones lampa färdig" – (Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244)
Tune: Swedish folk; Music: Paul Manz © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers

Trusting in God, Trusting with God

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.