

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

610-965-9500 e-mail: bluechch@ptd.net Website: stpaulscoopersburg.com

Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; jjtrev1@verizon.net

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2019

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you. All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on Blue Church, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN #377 "ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN!"

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

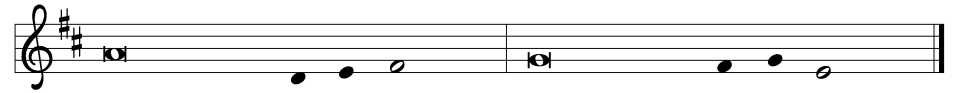
FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 5:27-32

PSALM 118:14-29

(Sung Responsively)

Psalm Tone 10



The LORD is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

15 Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous: "The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"

16The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"

**17 I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the LORD.**

18The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

**19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**

20"This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter."

**21 I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.**

22The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

**23 By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

24This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

**25 Hosanna! | O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days!**

26Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD;
we bless you from the house | of the LORD.

**27 The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.**

28You are my God, and | I will thank you;
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.

**29 Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.**

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 1:4-8

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA

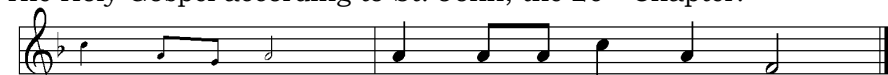


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #635 "WE WALK BY FAITH"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS *Response : Your mercy is great.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING
Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.

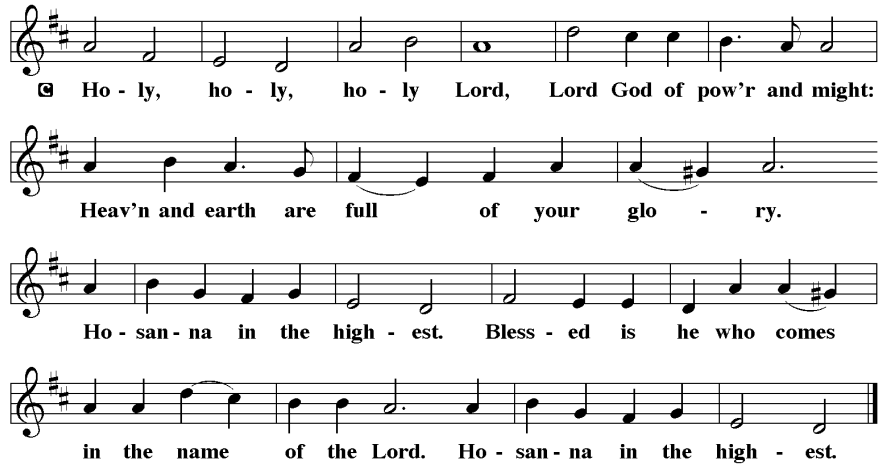
OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray...Risen One,
as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

HOLY COMMUNION - #477 "I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD"

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

Let us pray...Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of the living God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

HYMN #384

"THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



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WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.

"God's purpose for St. Paul's Lutheran Blue" Church is to spread the Good News of Christ's love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond." -Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 5:27-32: *Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance. .*

REVELATION 1:4-8: *The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ, experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

JOHN 20:19-31: *The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe".*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: When I am locked in fear, O Christ, give me your peace. (John 20:19)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: We walk by faith, O God, and not by sight. Come to us and lead us by the light of your word. Hold us in the midst of our doubts and guide us with your promises. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE: - For those people wishing to take Holy Communion without wine, there are four cups in the center of the Communion tray with grape juice.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Karen Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Joel Hammond, John Kupiszewski, Carl Ritter, Ruth Stives, Myrtle Tracy

Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in "acute care" situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETERS Sandy Denora, Genie Mattson

ASSISTING MINISTER Amy Ortwein
LECTOR Amy Ortwein
CANTOR Ron Fried
USHERS John & Marcy Sumoski
CHURCHTIME NURSERY Cathy Link
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY Diane Wirth
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Carol Stoudt

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
MON.: **7 PM** Tower Committee Meeting.
WED.: **9 AM** Quilting.
NEXT SUN.: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
6 PM Catechism.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

May 5 - 6 PM - Catechism.
May 12 - 10:30 AM Worship - Oleskowitz Baptism.
May 13 - 7 PM Church Council

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Diane Wirth
BULLETINS...by Mike and Paula Clark.
SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Irene Frederick

Stewardship Snippet

April 28, 2019 (Second Sunday of Easter)

Psalm 150:1 -Praise the LORD!

You get the impression from Psalm 150 that praising God is not something you do, but rather something that steward disciples embody every minute of every day, every activity and every thought. How do you praise God? How can you do better?