

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; jitrev1@verizon.net

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✠ APRIL 7, 2019

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

God at the margins,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ✠ Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

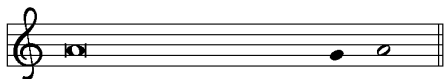
HYMN #793 BE THOU MY VISION

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE ELEISON



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



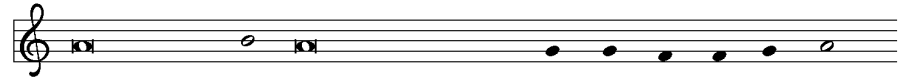
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 READING:

ISAIAH 43:16-21

PSALM 126 *Sung responsively*

Tone #9



When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

**⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

SECOND READING:

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 12:1-8

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #330

SEED THAT IN EARTH IS DYING

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

PRAYERS

Response: **"Your mercy is great."**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the LORD be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – "SACRIFICE OF LOVE" – BRIAN RUSSELL

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

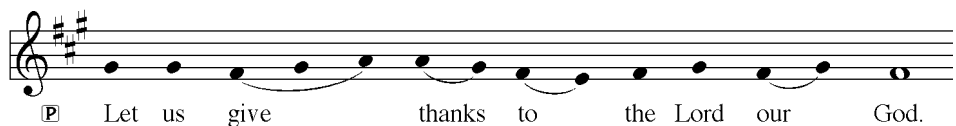
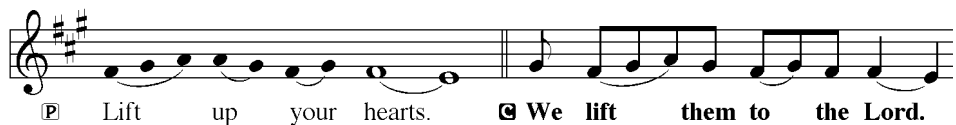
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

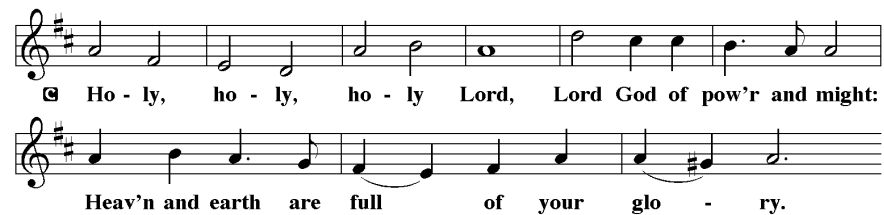
Let us pray...Generous God,

You feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

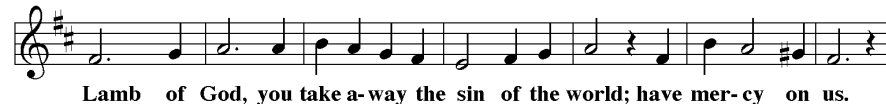
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

LAMB OF GOD



HOLY COMMUNION - #803 *WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS*

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. 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.**

HYMN #335

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

✠ ✠ ✠

Liturgical music reprinted from **Lutheran Book of Worship**. © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg-Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 126 is reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year A* copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. Copying of any music in this bulletin prohibited without written permission.

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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR.....

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.....*The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

ISAIAH 43:16-21: The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14: Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

JOHN 12:1-8: Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: The Lord has done great things for me. (*Psalm 126:3*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Lord Jesus, you came among us not to be served but to serve those in need. Keep us faithful in your service and strengthen us to be ministers of forgiveness. 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, Janet Lick, Carl Ritter, 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	Laurissa, Julia & Scarlett Kashmer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Wendy & Greg Storat
CHURCHTIME NURSERY	
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Ed Risi

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

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

10:30 AM Worship – Palm Sunday.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

APRIL 14 – 10:30 AM. PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP.

APRIL 18 – 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP.

APRIL 19 – 7 PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP.

APRIL 21 – EASTER DAY.

9 AM Easter Breakfast.

10 AM Easter Egg Hunt.

10:30 AM Worship.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Mike and Paula Clark.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Irene Frederick

HISTORIC MEMORABILIA from Blue Church is available in the Narthex for your taking. The items are duplicates from the Archives. These are great mementos from the past history of Blue Church. Donations appreciated.

EASTER BREAKFAST – Donations of breakfast casseroles, bacon, sausage, waffles, etc. are needed for the Easter breakfast to be held at 9 AM Easter Day. Also needed are persons to help to set up on Saturday, April 20th at 10 AM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or contact Deb Stover with any questions – 484-437-3131.

EASTER EGG HUNT – 10:00 AM Easter Sunday. Ages 1 month to 12 years!

Note: We are asking you to pick up your carton of plastic eggs, take them home and fill them with your favorite sweets (please no peanut products) and bring them back to church.

Also, we are asking for hard boiled colored eggs for the egg hunt. Please bring them to church by March 31st. Thanks!

Stewardship Snippet

April 7, 2019 (Fifth Sunday in Lent.)

Isaiah43:20–The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people.

Throughout the Bible you see that human beings are not the ONLY living things God is concerned about. Every plant, animal and organism contains God's handiwork, and God's love and concern extends throughout creation.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

APRIL 9 – DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, THEOLOGIAN, DIED 1945 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who, at the age of twenty-five, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler's rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler's life and sent to Buchenwald, then to Schonberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schonberg prison, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, "This is the end, but for me the beginning of life." *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes a hymn (626) by Bonhoeffer, "By Gracious Powers."

APRIL 10 – MIKAEL AGRICOLA, BISHOP OF TURKU, DIED 1557

Argicola was consecrated as the bishop of Turku in 1554, without papal approval. As a result he began a reform of the Finnish church along Lutheran lines. He translated the new Testament, the prayerbook, hymns, and the mass into Finnish, and through this work set the rules of orthography that are the basis of modern Finnish spelling. His thoroughgoing work is particularly remarkable in that he accomplished it in only three years. He died suddenly on a return trip from negotiating a treaty with the Russians.
