

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

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

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✘ August 26, 2018

PRELUDE — "ANDANTE CANTABILE" — EUGENE GIGOUT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✘ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Eternal God our creator,
**in you we live and move and have our being Look upon us,
your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our
offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty
desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our
strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✘ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMN #408 "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18

PSALM 34:15-22

Sung responsively

Tone 5



¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

VERSE



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th Chapter.



☩

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 6:56-69

The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #810 – “O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED”

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into
hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Response : Have mercy, O God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

**OFFERING – “MY TRIBUTE (TO GOD BE THE GLORY)”
SOLO BY RON FRIED**

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

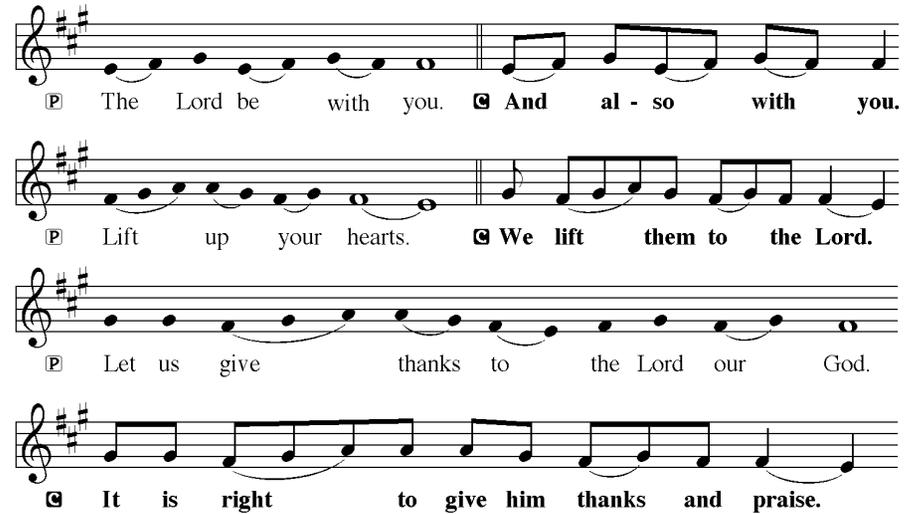
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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.*

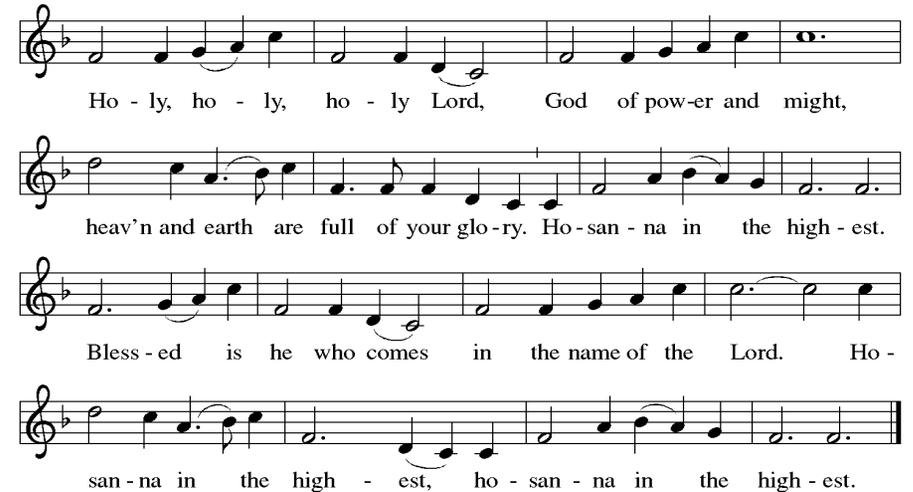
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,
**you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living
thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to
receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live
it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the 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

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN: #494 "FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are LORD forevermore. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #537 – "ON OUR WAY REJOICING"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE- "FINALE"- JANET CORRELL

✠ ✠ ✠

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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....THE 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go? asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter ad Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

JOSHUA 24:1-2a, 14-18: *In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

EPHESIANS 6:10-20: *Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

JOHN 6:56-69: *The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 14: Let my life proclaim the gospel of peace. (See Ephesians 6:15)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Lord Jesus, we believe you are the holy one of God. Stay with us and guide us in the work you have given us to do in daily life. 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: Claire Biser, Doris Branson, Alton DeBold, Jason Homlish, Wendy Porter, Henry Roberts, Irmi, Ann

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 persons 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	John and Marcy Sumoski
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
USHERS	Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Carol Stoudt

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9:30 AM Worship.
WED.: 9 AM Quilting.
NEXT SUN.: 9:30 AM Worship

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

SEPT. 9, 9:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES. New members are especially welcomed.

SEPT. 10 - 7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING.

SEPT. 15 - COOPERSBURG COMMUNITY DAY.

SEPT. 23 - RALLY DAY AT BLUE CHURCH.

SEPT. 30 – NEW MEMBER CLASSES (See Pastor Jim)

OCTOBER – BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH AT LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY, LIMEPORT.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Paula and Mike Clark

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Emmett & Marie Miller

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR WAYS TO HELP WITH COMMUNITY DAY ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. There are a lot of opportunities for you to help.

THE PRODUCE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX IS FROM THE BLUE CHURCH “GIVING GARDEN”. Please feel free to take what you can use and leave a donation in the “Cabbage”. All monies will be donated to Betty Lou’s Food Pantry to help feed the hungry.

BETTY LOU’S FOOD PANTRY is especially in need of the following items: Catsup, mustard, mayonnaise and coffee.

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!! BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON OCTOBER 13TH. Mark your calendar. *It’s not too early to start saving all your unwanted “treasures” for this event.*

THERE ARE STILL OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE SANCTUARY CANDLE, BULLETINS, ETC. Please check the appropriate chart on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

Do you see anything around Blue Church that needs repairs? If so, jot it down on the form on the clip board on the table in the Narthex and the Property Committee will look into fixing it.
