

VERSE

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. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #255 "THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"

THE PRAYERS *Response : hear our prayer.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?" – HARRY SIMEONE

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

A: Let us pray...Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shines ever new and our lives reveal your light. 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 him thanks and praise.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

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

HYMN #263 "SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☒ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #250 "BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL"

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE!" – ROBERT THYGERSON

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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 ADVENT

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

ISAIAH 40:1-11: *In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

2 PETER 3:8-15A: *This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promise coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

MARK 1:1-8: *The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Anthony Abate, Clifford Benner, Joyce Christman, Viletta Schantzenbach, Shannon Silliman, Shane, Kevin

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 |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Amy Ortwein |
| GREETERS | Rudy & Marilyn Boardl |
| LECTOR | Amy Ortwein |
| CANTOR | Ron Fried |
| USHERS | Greg & Wendy Storat |
| ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY | Dean & Deb Stover |
| CHURCH COUNCIL REP | Pete Link |

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY: | <u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church. <u>9:30 – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship |
| MON.: | <u>5 – 6 PM</u> Daisy Troop Meeting <u>6:30 – 7:45 PM</u> Juniors Meeting <u>7 PM Church Council Meeting.</u> |
| WED.: | <u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church. <u>7 PM</u> Mission Possible Rehearsal. |
| THURS.: | <u>6:30 PM</u> Den Meeting. |
| SAT.: | <u>4:00 PM ST, LUCIA FEST.</u> |
| NEXT SUN.: | <u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal. <u>9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education at Blue Church. |

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

DEC. 11 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

SAT. DEC. 16 – 4:00 PM ST. LUCIA FEST AT BLUE CHURCH. (SNOW DATE – SUN. DEC. 17)

DEC. 24TH -Christmas Eve – 6 PM and 9 PM Candlelight Worship.

JAN. 21ST – Annual Congregational Meeting.

JAN. 28, 2018 – “MISSION POSSIBLE” STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON THEATER More information to follow.

DONATIONS OF COOKIES would be appreciated for the St. Lucia Festival on Saturday, December 16th.

THE COAT DRIVE IS UNDER WAY. Don't throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats to help those who can use them for the upcoming winter season. The collection of coats will continue through the Christmas season. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY LAMP AND THE WINE & COMMUNION BREAD FOR 2018 ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX. Simply fill in the date on the appropriate chart that you would like to sponsor (in memory of/in honor of, etc.) and an envelope will be sent to you prior to that week for your payment. Altar Flowers - \$25.00; Bulletins - \$15.00; Sanctuary Lamp -\$4.00; Monthly Communion Wine & Bread - \$20.00.

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...