

# 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 R. Hammond 610-437-1960; jjtrev1@verizon.net

**Third Sunday of Advent ✕ December 17, 2017**

PRELUDE – "AWAY IN A MANGER" – JAMES MURRAY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✕ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection*

God of all time,  
**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✕ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

**HYMN #239 "HARK THE GLAD SOUND!"**

### ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY & LIGHTING 3<sup>RD</sup> CANDLE

P: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say--

**C: A voice that speaks for peace.**

P: Peace for all faithful people.

**C: and those who turn to him in their hearts.**

P: God's help is near for those who fear him,

**C: that his glory may dwell in our land.**

P: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

*Third candle is lit.*

**HYMN #789 "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US" (STANZA 3)**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Stir up the wills of your faithful people, LORD God and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11**

**PSALM 126** *Sung responsively (Psalm Tone 6)*



<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then 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."**

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

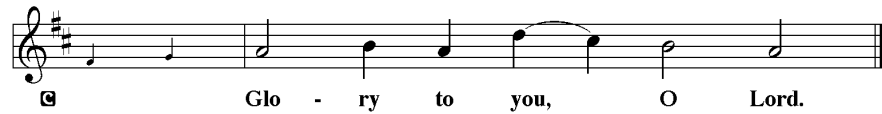
<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

**SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24**

### VERSE

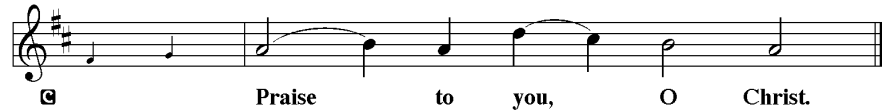


The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.



**THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28**

The Gospel of the LORD.



**SERMON**

**HYMN #815 "I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"**

**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**

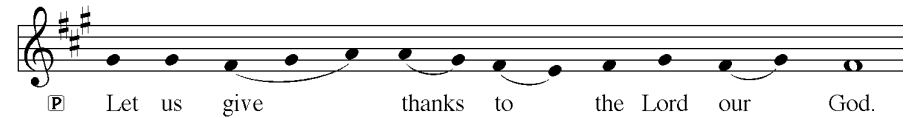
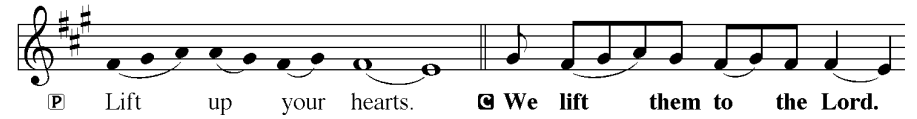
**OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884**

*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.*

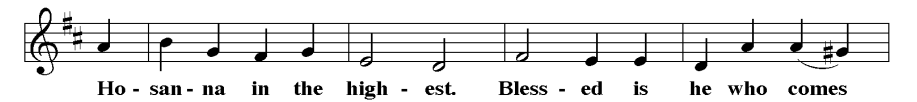
**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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**



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

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 #490 "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE"

### 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 #274 "ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT"

## DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" – HUGH LIVINGSTON, JR.



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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: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....** *"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children get a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.*

**ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11:** *Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24:** *Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

**JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28:** *John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

### BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Anthony

Abate, Clifford Benner, Joyce Christman, Doris Heiserman, Carl Ritter, 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

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Ron Fried
<b>GREETERS</b>	Mike & Paula Clark
<b>LECTOR</b>	Laurissa Kashmer
<b>CANTOR</b>	Gwen Gibiser
<b>USHERS</b>	Anne Nichols, Diane Wirth
<b>ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY</b>	Anne Nichols
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Roger Knappenberger

### **CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD**

<b>TODAY:</b>	<u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church. <u>9:30 – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship
<b>WED.:</b>	<u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church.
<b>NEXT SUN.:</b>	<u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal. <u>9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education at Blue Church. <u>6 PM</u> Christmas Eve Family Vespers. <u>9 PM</u> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship/Holy Communion.

*C O M I N G E V E N T S – m a r k y o u r c a l e n d a r !*

**DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> -Christmas Eve – 6 PM and 9 PM  
Candlelight Worship.**

**JAN. 21<sup>ST</sup> – Annual Congregational Meeting.**

**JAN. 28, 2018 – “MISSION POSSIBLE”**

**STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON THEATER More  
information to follow.**

***WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:***

**ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY...**by Anne Nichols in honor  
of Krysta Nichols' Birthday.

**BULLETINS...**by Joyce Christman in memory of family  
and friends.

**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Bill & Kathy Exner.

**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Roger and Edie  
Knappenberger

**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.

### **BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	<b>NOV.</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 8,573.00</b>	<b>\$ 90,362.57</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 13,111.76</b>	<b>\$147,008.87</b>
<b><u>(DEFICIT)</u></b>	<b>- (\$ 4,538.76)</b>	<b>(\$ 56,646.30)</b>

**ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES**  
\$ 4,500.00                      \$49,500.00

**ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND**      \$ 7,868.13

***WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...***

**DECEMBER 20 – KATHARINA VON BORA LUTHER,  
RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1552**

Born of an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina  
(Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in  
a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age  
twenty-four she and several other nuns who were  
influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the  
convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.  
Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she  
proved herself a gifted household manager and became a  
trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to  
calling her “my lord Katie.”