



## VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL:

LUKE 21:25-36

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### HYMN #246 "HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING!"

## 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: "hear our prayer"*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## OFFERING — "O COME, EMMANUEL" — DON BESIG

*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...God of abundance,  
**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as  
we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son,  
our Savior and LORD. 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. 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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the LORD is good.

### 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...Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our LORD Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### HYMN #248 "PEOPLE, LOOK EAST"

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE – “VOLUNTARY ON ‘COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS’” – GRIMOALDO MACCHIA**



Liturgical music reprinted from **Lutheran Book of Worship**, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg-Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Copying of any music in this bulletin prohibited without written permission. Psalm 25 is reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year C* copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

---

**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.

*“Gods 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.”*

—Mission Statement adopted, February 2012

---

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE**

**READINGS.....***Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our LORD Jesus with all the saints.” Our LORD’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming and the advent of our LORD in word and supper.*

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16:** *In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13:** *Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

**LUKE 21:25-36:** *God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.*

---

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your wisdom.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** God of love, strengthen our hearts in holiness. Prepare us to meet the LORD Jesus when he comes again with all his saints. 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:** Robert Fulford, Joel Hammond, Hattie Smith, Maureen Swanson, Irmi, Dan, Deb  
*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**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>GREETERS</b>	Richard & Beverly Lerch
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>LECTOR/CANTOR</b>	Gwen Gibiser
<b>USHERS</b>	Ron & Carol Stoudt
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Carol Stoudt
<b>ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY</b>	Loraine Kline

---

**CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD**

**TODAY:**        **9:00 AM** Choir Rehearsal.  
                     **9:30 AM** Christian Education.  
                     **10:30 AM** Worship.

**WED.:**        **9 AM** Quilting.

**NEXT SUN.:** **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.  
                     **9:30 AM** Christian Education.  
                     **10:30 AM** WORSHIP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent.

*C O M I N G E V E N T S – mark your calendar!*

**DEC. 10 – 7 PM – Church Council Meeting.**

**DEC. 15 – 4 PM St. Lucia Fest Program at Blue Church.**  
(Snow Date – Dec. 16)

---

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**  
**ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Sandra Denora and Genie Mattson in memory of Loved Ones.  
**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Bill and Kathy Exner.  
**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Roger and Edie Knappenberger

---

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR BETTY LOU’S PANTRY DISTRIBUTION TWO SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER.** They are December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM. A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

**THE COAT DRIVE IS ONCE AGAIN 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.

---

**Blue Church is responsible** for providing Betty Lou's Pantry with **80** bottles of laundry detergent for the month of December (our church's month to serve the pantry). The Pantry does not supply laundry detergent. **Thanks to your generosity we have collected 72 bottles toward our goal so far.**

---

**THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY TO BRING YOUR ITEMS FOR THE LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING.** Please remember to bring your individual wrapped gifts for names that you chose so they can be distributed.

---

**As in the past, we are now accepting monetary contributions for Christmas for a family or families in the Southern Lehigh community through Betty Lou's Food Pantry.** Contributions will be accepted until Sunday, December 2, 2018.

If you would like credit for your monetary contribution at Blue Church, be sure to write your name on the front of the envelope. The envelopes are located on the table in the narthex next to a basket in which to place your contribution. Let's help make this family's holidays a joyous one. We thank you again for your support. Christian Action Team.

---

**BLUE CHURCH BAKERS** – Donations of cookies are desired for the St. Lucia Fest Program at Blue Church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

---

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – The sign-up charts are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex to sponsor poinsettias to adorn the altar area at Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran (Blue) Church.

**ST. PAUL'S BLUE CHURCH invites you to the Lucia Fest, a Swedish pageant of music and candlelight on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Please join Lucia and her Attendants, Star Children, and Tomtegubbar (elves) in celebrating this Scandinavian holiday tradition. After the pageant, light refreshments will be served.**

---

***The Sheets to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins, the Sanctuary Candle, and the monthly Communion Wine for 2019 are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Please make sure to sign the appropriate chart.***

---

**HELP BLUE CHURCH BY SHOPPING AT AmazonSmile.** Each time you do Amazon will donate 0.5% of the amount of the purchase. Each quarter Blue Church will then receive a check. Before shopping simply select **ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH COOPERSBURG PA** as your charitable choice to receive your donation. Pick up an information sheet on the table in the Narthex.

---

### ***Stewardship Snippet***

**Dec. 2, 2018** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.)

**Psalm 25:4** – Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.  
*The First Sunday of Advent's theme is hope. Christians find our hope in God. We hunger for God and ask for guidance and strength to live fully as steward/disciples.*

***Please consider the Simply Giving Program in your stewardship giving to the Church. The program offers a secure electronic payment solution that allows you to make regular offerings. Sign up is easy. Simply fill out a form located in the narthex and return it to the church office. Any questions, contact Kathy Exner.***

---