



## 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 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**HYMN #441** "OH, HAPPY DAY WHEN WE SHALL STAND"

**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 "MARY DID YOU KNOW" – MARK LOWRY AND BUDDY GREEN**

## 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.

**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 #260 "THE KING SHALL 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 #244 "REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS"

## DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE: "NOEL SUISSE" – LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

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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: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....** *Stir up your power and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

**ISAIAH 64:1-9:** *This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40-55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9:** As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the LORD has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the LORD.

**MARK 13:24-37:** In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

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**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.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>GREETERS</b>	Warren & Lois Adams
<b>LECTOR</b>	Loraine Kline
<b>CANTOR</b>	Gwen Gibiser
<b>USHERS</b>	Joyce Fulford, Susan Clemens-Bruder
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Carol Stoudt

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**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 <u>6:30 PM</u> Confirmation Classes.
<b>MON.:</b>	<u>6:30 – 7:45 PM</u> Jr. & Cadettes Mtg.
<b>TUES.:</b>	PACK #364 Committee Mtg.
<b>WED.:</b>	<u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church.
<b>THURS.:</b>	<u>6:30 PM</u> Den Meeting.
<b>NEXT SUN.:</b>	<u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal. <u>9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education at Blue Church. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship.

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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. 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.**

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:  
BULLETINS...**by Joyce Christman in memory of family and friends

**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Joyce Fulford.

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

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**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.

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**As in the past, we are now accepting monetary contributions for Christmas for a family in the Southern Lehigh community.** Today is the last day for contributions.

If you would like credit for your monetary contribution at Blue Church, be sure to write your name on the front of the envelope. Envelopes are located on the table in the narthex. Let's help make this family's holidays a joyous one.

We thank you again for your support. Christian Action Team.

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**POINSETTIAS** – The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex to sponsor the poinsettias to adorn the altar area for Christmas. Please check the color/size/cost listed on the sheet. Deadline for orders is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

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**THE LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT LUTHERAN INGATHERING BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX.** The Ingathering is continued each year to brighten the holy season of Christmas for our Christian brothers and sisters who have special needs. Please check the list of items needed. Blue Church is also responsible for five individual adult wrapped gifts for Good Shepherd Raker and five individual children wrapped gifts for Topton Home. Please see or call Wendy Storatt if you have any questions (484-863-9003).

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**LECTORS NEEDED** – A Lector is needed for the December 17<sup>th</sup>, December 24<sup>th</sup> 6 PM Christmas Eve Service, and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please sign the Lector book on the windowsill in the Narthex or let Pastor Jim or Kathy Exner know. The Lessons will be sent to you ahead of time for you to review. New people are very welcome!

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**ELIZABETH ERTZ OF VERA CRUZ WAS THE WINNER OF THE QUILT DRAWING.**

**WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...**

**DECEMBER 3 – FRANCIS XAVIER, MISSIONARY TO ASIA, DIED 1552**

Francis Xavier was born in the Basque region of northern Spain. Francis's native Basque language is unrelated to any other, and Francis admitted that learning languages was difficult for him. Despite this obstacle he became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. At each point he learned the local language and, like Martin Luther, wrote catechisms for the instruction of new converts. Another obstacle Francis overcame to

accomplish his mission work was a propensity to seasickness. All his travels to the Far East were by boat. Together with Ignatius Loyola and five others, Francis formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spoke out against the Spanish and Portuguese colonists when he discovered their oppression of the indigenous people to whom he was sent as a missionary.

**DECEMBER 4 – JOHN OF DAMASCUS, THEOLOGIAN AND HYMNWRITER, DIED AROUND 749**

Born to a wealthy family in Damascus and well educated, John left a career in finance and government to become a monk in an abbey near Jerusalem. He wrote many hymns as well as theological works. Foremost among the latter is a work called *The Fount of Wisdom*, which touches on philosophy, heresy, and the orthodox faith. This summary of patristic theology remained influential for centuries.

**DECEMBER 6 – NICHOLAS, BISHOP OF MYRA, DIED AROUND 342**

Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. In the fourth century he was a bishop in what is now Turkey. Legends that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. One famous story tells of Nicholas secretly giving bags of gold to the three daughters of a father who was going to sell them into prostitution because he could not provide dowries for them. Nicholas has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.

**DECEMBER 7 – AMBROSE, BISHOP OF MILAN, DIED 397**

Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop within one week's time. While bishop he gave away his wealth and lived in simplicity. He as a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Ambrose is credited with authorship of three hymns in ELW, including "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263)