

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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany ✠ February 17, 2019

PRELUDE – "BE THOU WITH ME" – JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Mighty and loving God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope and love. Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the LORD is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #696 JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT

GREETING

The boundless grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☞ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



☞ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The LORD be with you.

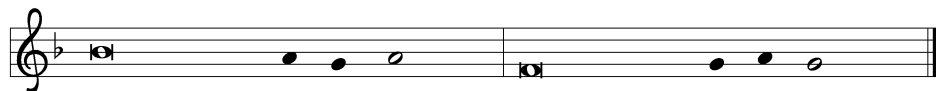
C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...Living God, in Christ you make all thing new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 17:5-10

PSALM 1 *Sung responsively* *Tone 5*



I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

2I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all
things.

3When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

4All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.

5They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

6The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.

7Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right | hand shall save me.

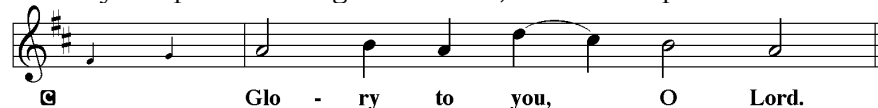
8You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

VERSE

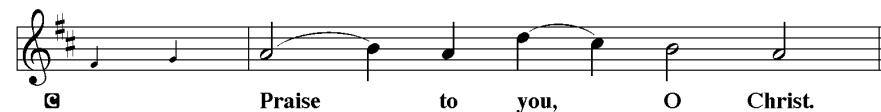


The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 5th Chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 6:17-26

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #728 BLEST ARE THEY

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: "hear our prayer."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING – "COME UNTO TO ME" – WILLIAM DAVID YOUNG

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

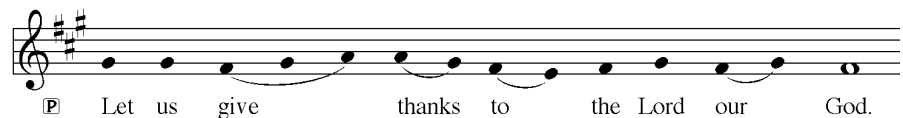
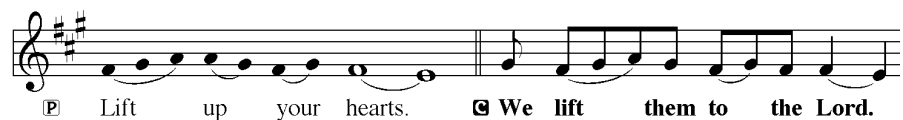
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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 all creation,
all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's Prayer.

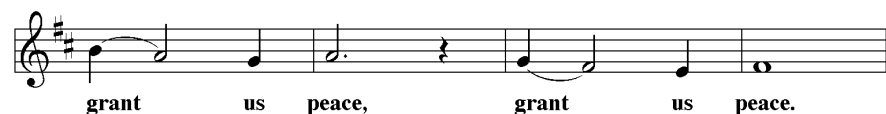
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

LAMB OF GOD



HOLY COMMUNION - #479 WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN #723 - CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE- "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL" – LANI SMITH

☩ ☩ ☩

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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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.....*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ones" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.*

JEREMIAH 17:5-10: *These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20: *For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

LUKE 6:17-26: *After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Lord, search my heart and lead me in your way. (*Jeremiah 17:10*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Merciful God, you do not abandon the poor, the hungry, and the sorrowful. Give us ready hearts to serve those who call out for help. 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: Ron Fried, Joel Hammond, Linda Kulp, Mary Levy, Christine Robins, Carol Stoudt Irm

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

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETER	Joyce Fulford
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Amy Ortwein
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Greg & Wendy Storat
CHURCHTIME NURSERY	Gloria Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Amy Ortwein

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

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

MON.: **7 PM** Church Council Meeting.

WED.: **9 AM** Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
 9:30 AM Christian Education.

10:30 AM Worship.
6:30 PM Catechism.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

MARCH 3 - 6:30 PM Catechism.

MARCH 6 - ASH WEDNESDAY.

MARCH 11 - 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

MARCH 16 - 1 - 5 PM Blue Church Art Annual Student Show in Fellowship Hall.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of Family and Friends.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Bill and Kathy Exner

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Bill and Kathy Exner

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. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

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.

Stewardship Snippet

Feb. 17, 2019 (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)

Luke 6:20 – Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

Why are the poor "blessed" and entranced into the kingdom of God? Emphasizing how wealth can be an obstacle to discipleship, Luke's gospel challenges us to rethink our relationship to money. What does this passage say to you?

ELIGIBLE THRIVENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOICE DOLLARS AVAILABLE have until **March 31, 2019**, to direct any remaining Choice Dollars. Help support Blue Church. Last year Blue Church received **\$908.00** in charitable outreach funding from Thrivent. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more, or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

FEBRUARY 18 - MARTIN LUTHER, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1546

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of sixty-two. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

FEBRUARY 23 - POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA, MARTYR, DIED 156

Polycarp was bishop of Smyrna (in present-day western Turkey) and a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation. In turn he was known by Iranaeus, bishop of Lyon in France, and Ignatius of Antioch. At the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. When urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?" The magistrate who made the offer was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice. Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of renouncing temptation.
