

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 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany ✦ February 24, 2019

PRELUDE – "WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS" – RICHARD

WILLIAMSON

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 #617 WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING, LORD

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.

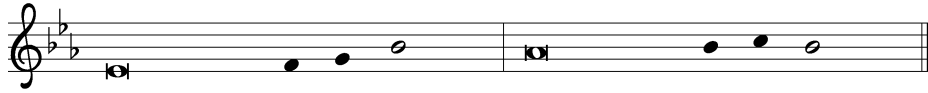
P: Let us pray...O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 *Sung responsively*

Tone 4



Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

**2For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

3Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

**4Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

5Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

**6The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

7Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who
succeeds in | evil schemes.

**8Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

9For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

**10In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

11But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

**39But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O
LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

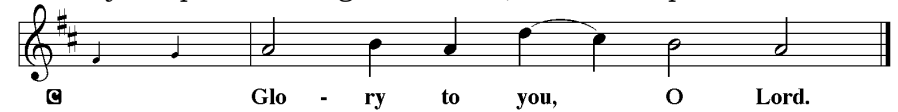
40You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because
in you | they seek refuge.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

VERSE

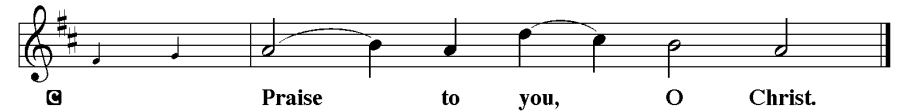


The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 6:27-38

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #603 GOD, WHEN HUMAN BONDS ARE BROKEN

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 – "LET YOUR MERCY FLOW" – JEFF LIPPENCOTT

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

♩ 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
their 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. 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

☩ 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 - #708 *JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE*

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 banquet 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 #716 - LORD OF ALL NATIONS, GRANT ME GRACE

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE- "MARCH" — JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

☩ ☩ ☩

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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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.....*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.*

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15: *Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50: *In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

LUKE 6:27-38: *Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: O Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.
(Luke 6:37)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Merciful God, teach us to love our enemies and to forgive those who sin against us for the sake of Christ our Lord. 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, Ann Greensweig, Joel Hammond, Linda Kulp, Mary Levy, Christine Robins, Carol Stoudt

Other concerns: The family and friends of Leatrice J. Wallitsch
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	Irene Frederick
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Anne Nichols, Diane Wirth
CHURCHTIME NURSERY	Julianne Medina
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Greg Storat
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Mike & Paula Clark

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
6 PM Catechism.
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 - FASTNACHT SUNDAY.
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:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Mike and Paula Clark in memory of family and friends.
BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of Family and Friends.
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. 24, 2019 (7th Sunday after the Epiphany)

Genesis 45:15 – And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Meeting them years after they had sold him into slavery, Joseph now greets his brothers with love, forgiveness, assistance and restoration.

A great model for loving relationships! What loving relationships need your forgiveness and restoration?

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.

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	JAN.	YEAR TO DATE
RECEIPTS	\$ 7,512.91	\$ 7,512.91
EXPENSES	\$11,348.12	\$11,348.12
(DEFICIT)	(\$ 3,835.21)	(\$3,835.21)
ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES		
	\$4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND		

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 - 2nd Reading

35 But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is* from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will* also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and

sisters,* is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

MARCH 1 – GEORGE HERBERT, HYMNWRITER, DIED 1633

As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, England, George Herbert excelled in languages and music. He went to college with the intention of becoming a priest, but his scholarship attracted the attention of King James I. Herbert served in parliament for two years. After the death of King James and at the urging of a friend, Herbert's interest in ordained ministry was renewed. He was ordained a priest in 1630 and served the little parish of St. Andrew Bremerton until his death. He was noted for unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. Herbert is best remembered, however, as a writer of poems and hymns such as "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" (ELW 816).

MARCH 2 – JOHN WESLEY, DIED 1791; CHARLES WESLEY, DIED 1788; RENEWERS OF THE CHURCH

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting, and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience while reading Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, John was perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth-century revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal in the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed a separate status.

Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (ELW 270), "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (ELW 553) and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (ELW 631).
