

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. James R. Hammond 610-437-1960; jjtrev1@verizon.net

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany ✕ February 4, 2018
SCOUT SUNDAY/SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

PRELUDE – "THE HEALING HAND OF GOD" – FRANKLIN RITTER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✕ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Loving God,

we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✕ Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

HYMN #553 "CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS HE SKIES"

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

Let us pray...Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 40:21-31

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c *Sung responsively*

ELW tone #6



- ¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!
- ²**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**
- ³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.
- ⁴**The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.**
- ⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
- ⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**
- ⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
- ⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow up- | on the mountains.**
- ⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
- ¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**
- ¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. | Hallelujah!

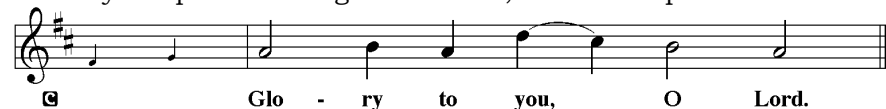
SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

VERSE



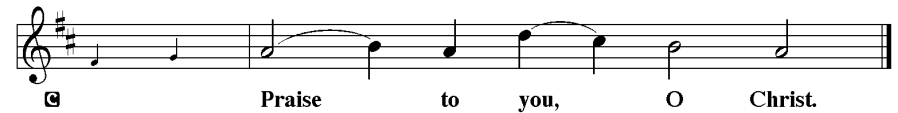
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 1:29-39

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #843 "PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS"

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: "Have mercy, O God."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING – "YOU'RE MY ALL IN ALL" – PETE CARLSON

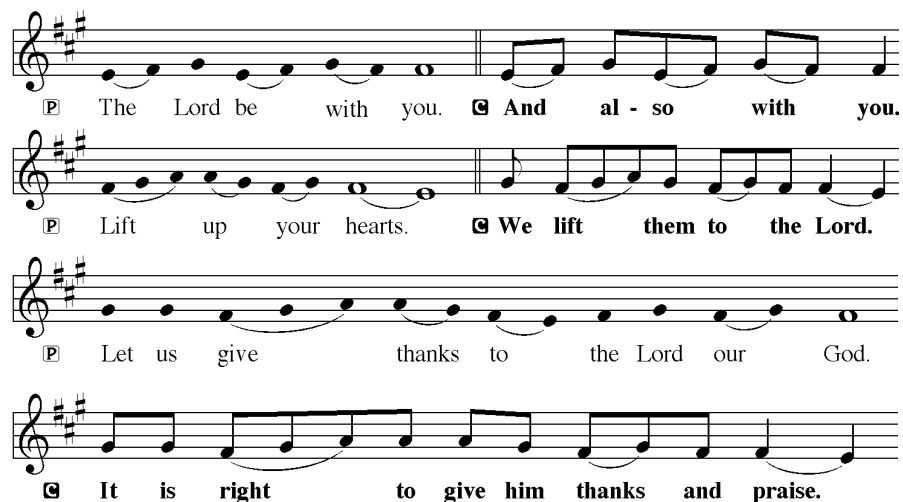
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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...Merciful God,
receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



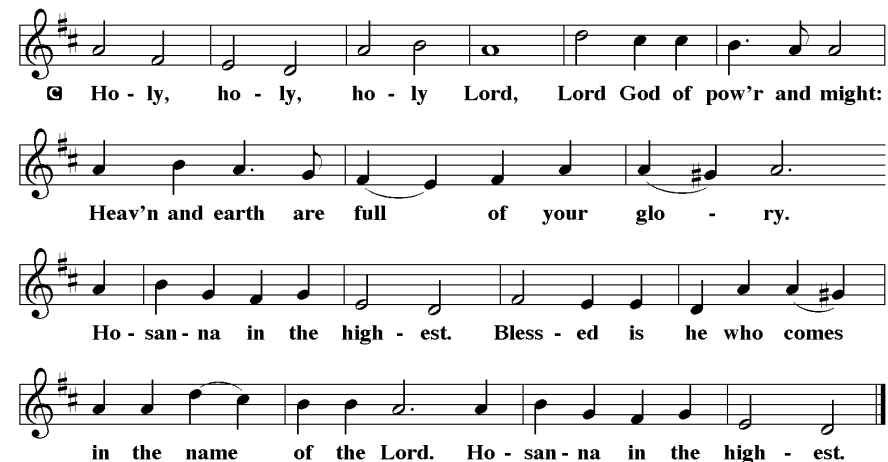
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ 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.

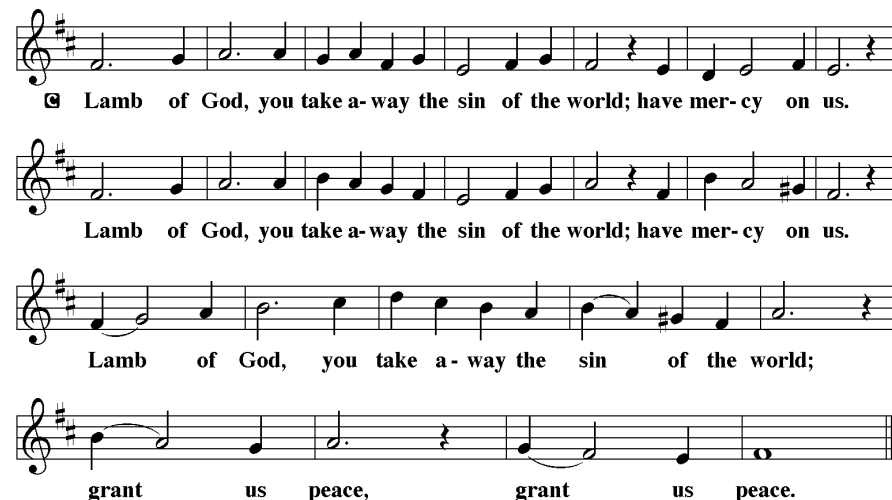
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P: We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

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 - #787 "ON EAGLES' WINGS"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: 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 #860 *“I’M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME”*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “POSTLUDE IN F” – CUTHBERT HARRIS

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: EPIPHANY 5

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ISAIAH 40:21-31: *The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23: *God entrusted Paul with the responsibility*

of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul’s ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

MARK 1:21-28: *Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR....Sick/Recovering: Anthony Abate, Maggie Fried, George Genoe, Marie Miller, Shannon Silliman, Ron Stoudt

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

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETERS	SCOUTS
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	SCOUTS
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Maggie Fried/SCOUTS
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Irene Frederick
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Greg Storat

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church.
9:30 – 10:15 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship/SCOUT SUNDAY/”SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY.
7 PM Catechism Classes at Blue Church.

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Christian Education at Blue Church.
10:30 AM Worship/Transfiguration of Our Lord/Rebecca Kay Oleskowitz Baptism.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

FEB. 11, 2018 – 10:30 AM Worship/Oleskowitz Baptism.

FEB. 12, 2018 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

FEB. 14, 2018 – 7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship.

FEB. 18, 2018 – 7 PM Catechism Classes at Blue Church

TODAY IS SCOUT SUNDAY – We give thanks for Pack #364 and all our Scouts, Leaders, and Parents. On this day we especially give thanks to all the scouts for assisting in worship.

TODAY IS ALSO “SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY. Non-perishable food items can be put in the box located in the narthex. Monetary donations will also be collected before and after worship.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: ALTAR FLOWERS...by Kathy Exner in honor of Bill Exner’s 80th Birthday.

BULLETINS...by Sandy Giannattasio.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Irene Frederick

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Mike & Paula Clark

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 winter 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.

A PRAYER OF THE DAY – *The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Psalm 147:3)*

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK – *Lord Jesus, be our strength in weakness, our healing in sickness, and our gate to eternal life. Amen.*

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

FEBRUARY 5 – THE MARTYRS OF JAPAN, DIED 1597

In the sixteenth century, Jesuit missionaries, followed by Franciscans, introduced the Christian faith in Japan. But a promising beginning to those missions—perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century—met complications from competition between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions within the government of Japan. Christianity was suppressed. By 1630, Christianity was driven underground.

Today we commemorate the first martyrs of Japan, twenty-six missionaries and converts who were killed by crucifixion. Two hundred and fifty years later, when Christian missionaries returned to Japan, they found a community of Japanese Christians that had survived underground.
