

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ✦ February 7, 2021
SCOUT SUNDAY**

PRELUDE – "TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS" – TODD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✦ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Holy God,
you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✦ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #611 "I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY"

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.

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

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

PSALM 147:1-11, 20C

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles 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 mighty 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 heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow upon 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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #598 “FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED”

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your
very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this
banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the
Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #537 “ON OUR WAY REJOICING”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “POSTLUDE IN F” – CUTHBERT HARRIS

☩ ☩ ☩

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permission.

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.*

THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANTUARY CANDLE AND WINE FOR 2021 ARE NOW ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX. Please check the appropriate charts.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Bill Exner, Lillian Frey, Ann Greensweig, Shirley Hildebrand, Walt Lehr, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat, Dean Stover

Other concerns: Kevin Jones, deployment; Todd and Dottie.
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
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	SCOUTS
GREETER	Joyce Fulford
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	John Sumoski

A BIG THANKS TO ALL THE SCOUTS FOR ASSISTING WITH VARIOUS TASKS IN WORSHIP TODAY.

LOOKING AHEAD

MONDAY, FEB. 8 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17 – 7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship.

THURSDAY, FEB. 18 – 6:30 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.

SUNDAY, FEB. 21 – 10:30 AM 1ST SUNDAY IN Lent.

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK...Lord Jesus, open our hearts to receive your healing power. Forgive us our sins, renew our strength, and lead us to serve all in need. Amen.

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. Many thanks to all those who have already donated coats.

BLUE CHURCH NOTES **IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one's nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.
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PLEASE NOTE – *If you would like to help defray the extra expense of the Communion cups you can use your Communion envelope in your box of offering envelopes or a plain envelope marked "Communion" with your name.*

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING DETERGENT DONATIONS FOR BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY. They can be left at the side entrance to the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

Stewardship Snippets

February 7, 2021 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless
- Isaiah 40:29

Yes, loving one's neighbors can be difficult, but it is not impossible. God is with us and gives the strength and power we need to love others, even our enemies. Stewardship of relationships matters!

LESSONS

Isaiah 40:21-31 – 1st Lesson

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations
of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew
their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 – 2nd Lesson

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground
for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and
woe betide me if I do not proclaim the
gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a
reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted
with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward?
Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the
gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use
of my rights in the gospel.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Mark 1:29-39 - Gospel

29 As soon as they* left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ✕
February 7, 2021

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need responding,

“Have mercy, O God.”

A brief silence

A: For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A brief silence

A: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEO's; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you. Today we pray especially for, Clifford, Bill, Lillian, Ann, Shirley, Walt, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Dean, Kevin, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: For Blue Church: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.