

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany ✠ January 14, 2018

PRELUDE – "THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING" – LANI SMITH
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 #676

"LORD, SPEAK TO US..."

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...Thanks be to you, LORD Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 (11-20)

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 *Sung responsively*

ELW tone #6



¹LORD, you have | searched me out;
O LORD, | you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths | of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written | in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!
How great is the | sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than
the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like
yours.**

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

VERSE *Sung by Cantor and Choir*

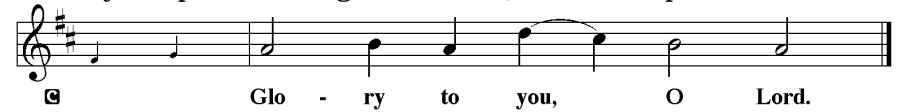


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

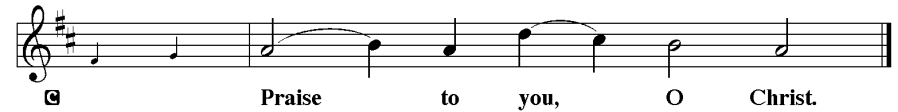


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:43-51

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #574

“HERE I AM, LORD”

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

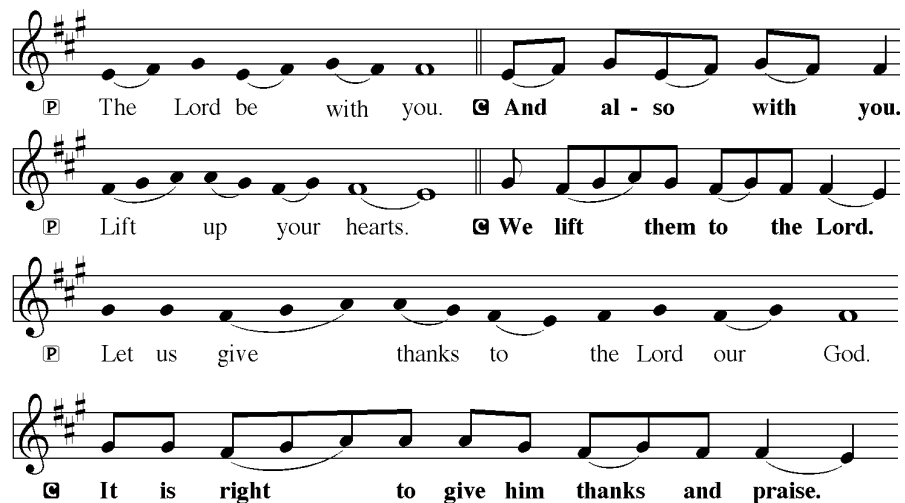
The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING – “HAVE FAITH” – JEFF LIPPENCOTT

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



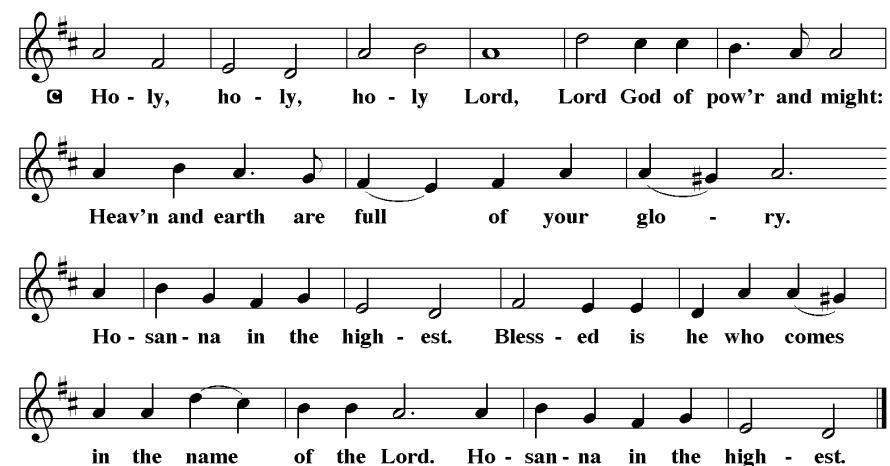
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ 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.

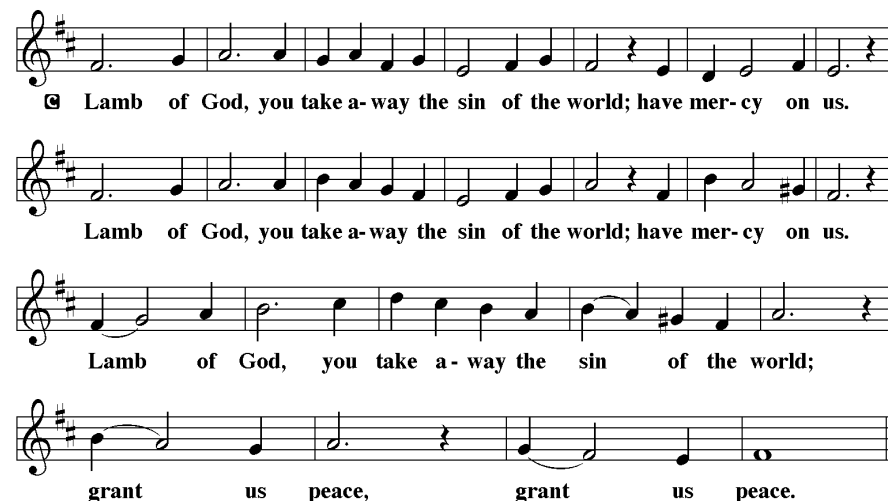
LORD'S PRAYER

**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 - #696 "JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT"

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 #798 "WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME"

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "POSTLUDE IN F MAJOR" – 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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: EPIPHANY 2

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and...the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

1 Samuel 3:1-20: At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20: Paul is helping the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ.

Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

John 1:43-51: In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR....Sick/Recovering: Anthony Abate, Clifford Benner, Joyce Christman, Maggie Fried, George Genoe, Doris Heiserman, Marie Miller, Carl Ritter, Shannon Silliman, Shane

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
GREETER	Anne Nichols
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Joyce Fulford
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church.
9:30 – 10:15 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.

TUES.: 7 PM Dress Rehearsal for "Mission Possible".

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

THURS.: 6:30 – 7:30 PM Den Meeting.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Christian Education resumes at Blue Church.
10:30 AM Worship.
12:15 PM "Mission Possible" Luncheon Theater.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

JAN. 16 - 7 PM - DRESS REHEARSAL FOR "MISSION POSSIBLE".

JAN. 21, 2018, 12:15 PM - "MISSION POSSIBLE" STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON THEATER. See Janet Hammond to purchase your tickets.

JAN. 28th - Annual Congregational Meeting. Reports are due in the church office, or e-mailed by Jan. 21st for inclusion in the Annual Report.

FEB. 3, 2018 - Valentine's Day Card Signing Party.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Joyce Fulford in memory of Loved Ones; and by Margaret Liebl in honor of Anne Nichols' Birthday.

BULLETINS AND SANCTUARY LAMP...by Joyce Fulford in memory of Loved Ones.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Ron and Carol Stoudt

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.

MISSION POSSIBLE: Coming to St. Paul's Blue Church [January 21, 2018!](#)

Tickets are on Sale for just \$4.00. Come join us for Lunch and an afternoon of entertainment by the "Blue Church Players". Don't miss out on all the fun.

P.S. Tickets are on sale now. Please see Janet Hammond

VALENTINE'S DAY CARD SIGNING PARTY at Blue Church Fellowship Hall, [Saturday, February 3rd](#), at 10 AM. This event benefits the clients at Valley Manor Nursing Home in Coopersburg. Please bring a snack to share. Everyone welcome.

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.

ATTENTION LECTORS: *The sign-up sheet is in the narthex with the open dates for 2018. Lectors, please sign up for a date that is convenient for you. New people are always welcome! Your help is greatly appreciated.*

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET - January 14, 2018 (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)

1 Samuel 3:10 - Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

God calls us all - all of us, without exception. The question is, are we paying attention, able to hear God's voice amid the clamoring din of the world's many competing voices. In order to be a good steward, servant, or disciple, we have to be paying attention so that when God calls us we can reply, as Samuel did, "Speak, for your servant is listening!"

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

JANUARY 15 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., RENEWER OF SOCIETY, MARTYR, DIED 1968

Martin Luther King Jr., is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968. Though most commemorations are held on the date of the person's death, many churches hold commemorations near Dr. King's birth date of January 15, in conjunction with the American civil holiday honoring him. An alternate date for the commemoration is his death date, April 5.
