

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany ✠ January 28, 2018

PRELUDE – "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY" – LUCY ANN WARRINER
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 #886 "OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"

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...Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

PSALM 111 *Sung responsively*

ELW tone #6

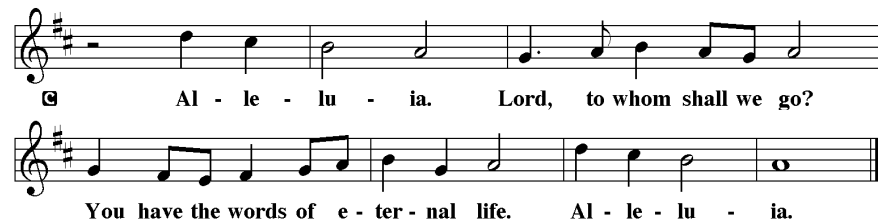


- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**
- ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**
- ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise en- | dures forever.**

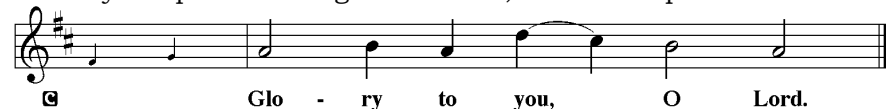
SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

VERSE



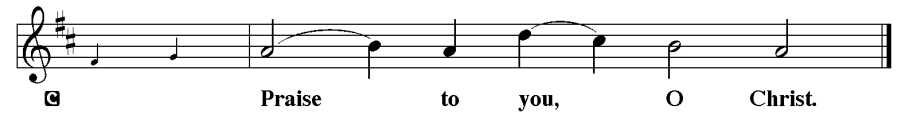
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.



HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 1:21-28

P: The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #311

“HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANNOINTED”

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 – “HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE” – HAL
WRIGHT**

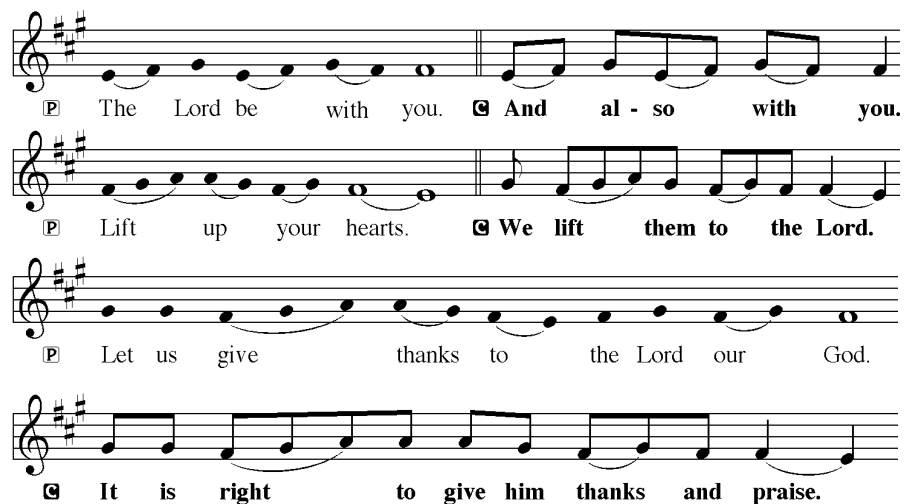
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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



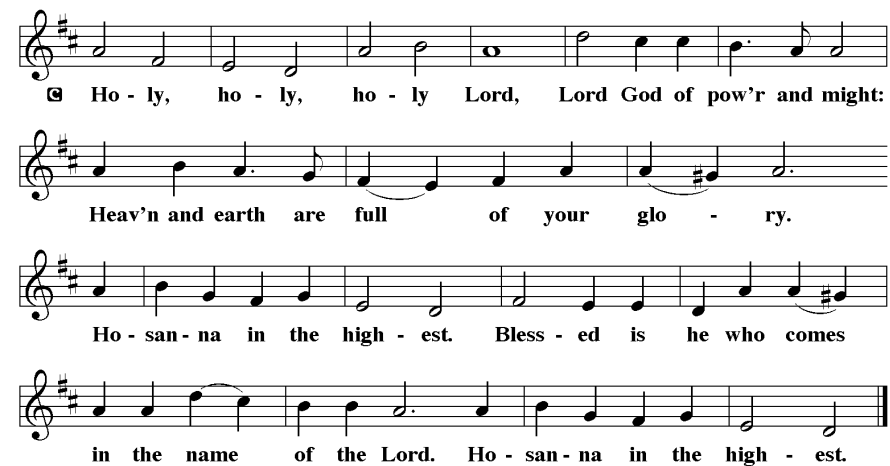
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ 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.

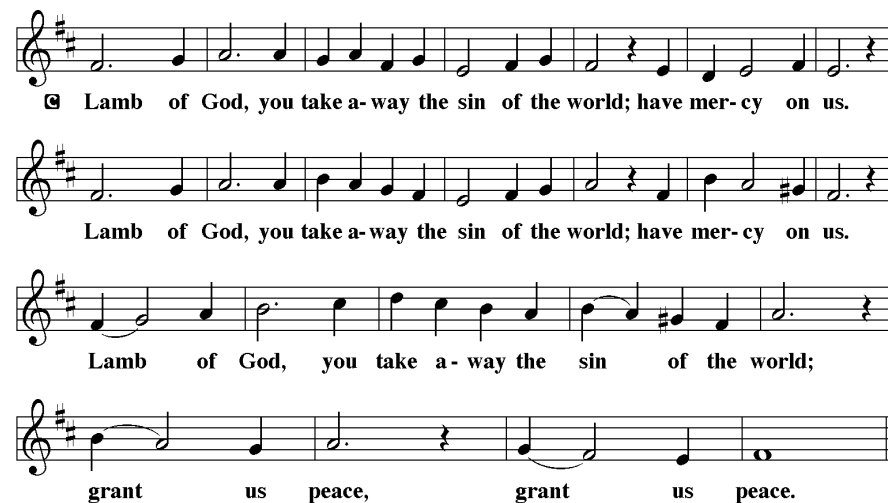
LORD'S PRAYER

**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 - #614 "THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD"

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 #537 "ON OUR WAY REJOICING"

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "REJOICE IN THE LORD" – CARL KERN

☩ ☩ ☩

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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 4

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's work. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20: *Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promise land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13: *Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.*

MARK 1:21-28: *The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.*

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

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 | Dean & Deb Stover |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Amy Ortwein |
| LECTOR | Amy Ortwein |
| CANTOR | Gwen Gibiser |
| USHERS | Roger & Edie Knappenberger |
| ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY | Anne Nichols |
| CHURCH COUNCIL REP | Pete Link |

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| TODAY: | <u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church. <u>9:30 – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship. Annual Congregational Meeting. |
| WED.: | <u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church. |
| SAT.: | <u>10 AM</u> Valentine Card Party – Bring a snack to share. |
| NEXT SUN.: | <u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal. <u>9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education at Blue Church. <u>10:30 AM</u> Worship/Scout Sunday. |

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

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

FEB. 4, 2018 - Scout Sunday at Blue Church.

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.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Anne Nichols in honor of Jeff Nichols' Birthday.

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

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

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.*

A PRAYER OF THE DAY - *Jesus is the Lord through whom I live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)*

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK - *God our redeemer, you have shown your graciousness to all who look upon Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in our struggle with the powers of evil that we may be light for the world. Amen.*

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

January 28, 2018 (4th Sunday after the Epiphany)

Psalm 111:1 -Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart!

What can we do to open the way for God to transform us into more-faithful steward disciples? Praise and thanksgiving are key! As you go through your day, keep these two phrases in your heart and on your lips: "Praise be to God!" "Thanks be to God!" Think of them and say them often. Then see what God can do with you.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK....

FEBRUARY 2 - PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD.

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophetess named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc Dimittis. His song described Jesus as a "light for the nations."

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.
