

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ✘ June 17, 2018

PRELUDE – “A FATHER’S PRAYER” – FRANKLIN RITTER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✘ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✘ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMN #756 “ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE”

GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

EZEKIEL 17:22-24

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

Sung responsively

Psalm Tone 1



- ¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;
²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**
³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**
¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

SECOND LESSON:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-17

VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 4:26-34

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #516 – “ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST”

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 : Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING – “LARGHETTO” – WILLEM DE FESCH

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

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our 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 unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN: #330 "SEED THAT IN EARTH IS DYING"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are LORD forevermore. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #812 - "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "TOCCATA FOR A CELEBRATION" — GENE CLARKE

✠ ✠ ✠

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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....THE 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

The mustard seed becomes a shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

EZEKIEL 17:22-24: *Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17: *Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

MARK 4:26-34: *Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 4: Make us a new creation.

(See 2 Corinthians 5:17)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Saving LORD, you died for all so that we might live for all. Plant your kingdom's power within us so that our lives may yield a fruitful harvest. 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: Connie Fazekas, Inge Genoe, Doris Heiserman, Jason Homlish, Carl Ritter, Joanne Ritter, Viletta Schantzenbach, Shannon Silliman, Irmu

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	Rudy and Marilyn Boandl
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Ron & Carol Stoudt
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Pete Link

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9:30 AM **Worship.**

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: 9:30 AM **Worship.**

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

JULY 29 - Yard Sale Committee Meeting immediately following Worship. Please plan to attend with your thoughts, ideas, and input.

OCTOBER - BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE (DATE TO BE DETERMINED).

BLESSING OF FIELDS AND GARDENS

O God, our creator, from the earth you bring forth fruits and vegetables, grains and flowers, to nourish and delight us. Grant that this land, sustained by rain and favorable weather and cultivated by human hands, may bring forth all abundant harvest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of family and friends.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Sandy Giannattasio

BLUE CHURCH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER.

It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK.....

JUNE 21 - ONESIMOS NESIB, TRANSLATOR, EVANGELIST, DIED 1931

Onesimos was born into the Oromo people of Ethiopia. He was captured by slave traders and taken from his homeland to Eritrea, where he was bought, freed, and educated by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into Oromo and returned to his homeland to preach the gospel. His tombstone includes a verse from Jeremiah 22:29, "O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!"