

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✕ MARCH 11, 2018

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✕ son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your
forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Merciful God,
**forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break
free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

Silence

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence

We acted when we knew better.

Silence

We were still when we should have moved.

Silence

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

People of God, look to the ✕ Son, given to heal you and set you free
because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal
life! **Amen.**

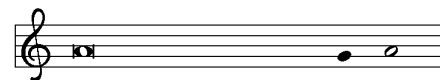
HYMN #666 "WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS"

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE ELEISON



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



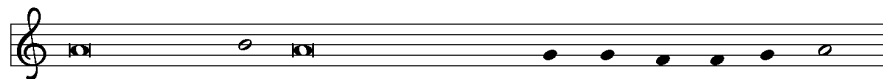
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

NUMBERS 21:4-9

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Sung responsively

Tone #8



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from
the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING:

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

VERSE

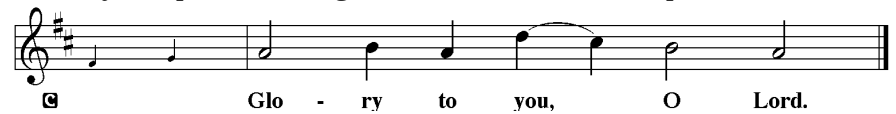


Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

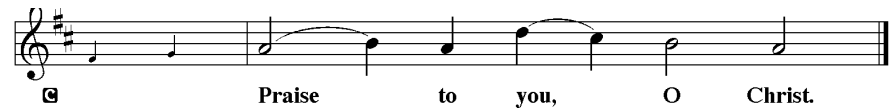


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

ST. JOHN 3:14-21

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #323

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of
heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became
incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS

Response: "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the LORD be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING — "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD" HAL WRIGHT

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.*

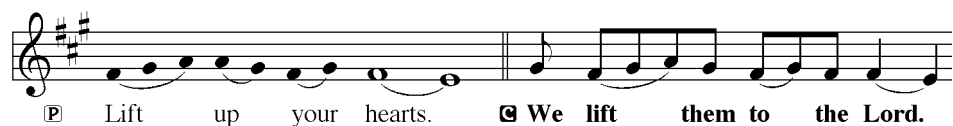
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...Merciful God,
receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through 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.

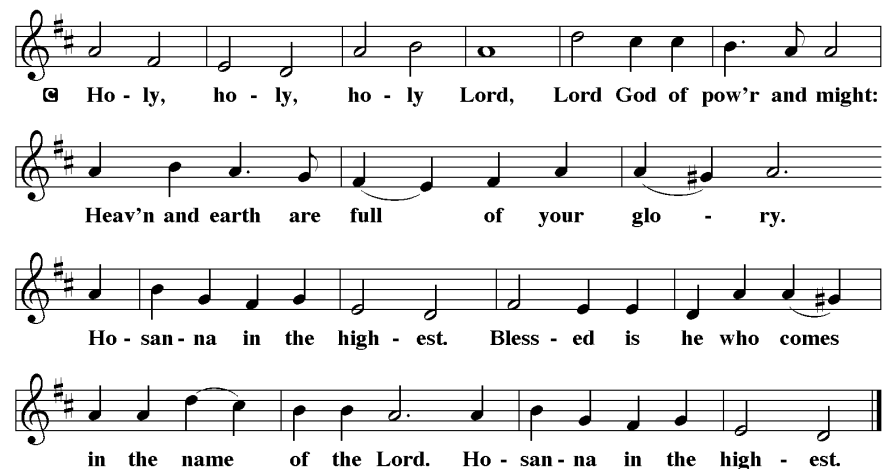


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓞ 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.

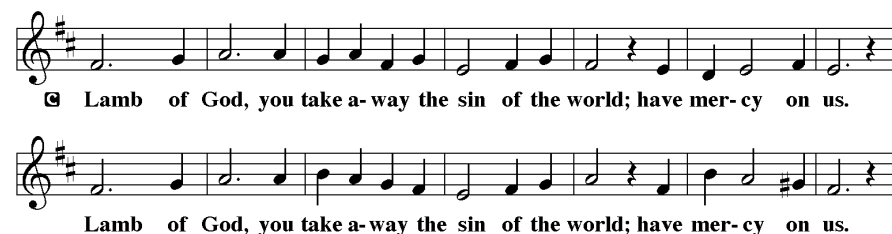
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey,
drink for the desert.

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.



HOLY COMMUNION - #338 "BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #660 "LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the LORD.
Thanks be to God.



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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.....

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT..... *The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

NUMBERS 21:4-9: Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10: While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

JOHN 3:14-21: To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETER	Sherry Farrell
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Gwen Gibiser
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Marci Sumoski, Shirley Hildebrand
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Greg Storat

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Anthony Abate, Jake Dilger, 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.

ELIGIBLE THRIVENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOICE DOLLARS

AVAILABLE have until **March 31, 2018**, to direct any remaining Choice Dollars. Help support Blue Church. Last year Blue Church received **\$2,061** in charitable outreach funding from Thrivent. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more, or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church.
9:30 – 10:15 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
**Hospitality Committee Meeting following
Worship.**
7 PM Catechism.

MON.: **7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship/5th Sunday in Lent.
**1 – 5 PM Blue Church Art Annual Student
Show.**
7 PM Catechism.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

**MARCH 25 – PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY FUN DAY – 9:30
AM** Fun and games for the young and young at heart
followed by Breakfast.

10:30 AM Worship with the Procession of Palms.

MARCH 29 – 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship.

MARCH 30 – 7 PM Good Friday Worship.

APRIL 1 – EASTER SUNDAY

9 AM Breakfast - **10 AM** Egg Hunt

10:30 AM Worship

APR. 7, 2018 – 9 AM – Work Party in the church.

Please plan to join us.

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

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Dean & Deb Stover in memory of
Parents.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Richard and Beverly
Lerch

PLEASE NOTE – In case of inclement weather, be sure to
check on WFMZ (either on TV or your computer) concerning
cancellation of the worship services.

**THE CHART FOR SPONSORING FLOWERS TO ADORN THE
ALTAR AT EASTER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE
NARTHEX.** Lily, Tulips and Daffodils are available. Please
check the chart for more information. You are welcome to take
your flowers home after the Easter Worship Service.

PRAYERS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

This year we will attempt to share our faith journey together. A
prayer will be listed in the bulletin each Sunday and on the
Web Page. Once during the week you are to say the prayer at
4:00 PM and take a picture of where you are and send it to
bluechch@ptd.net. During Sunday Service at prayer time, we
will share the prayer again with the photos of the community's
different settings.

**WEEK 4 – Holy God, you created all things by the power of
your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit.
Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that,
rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth
abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

**DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD
AND TIME AND TALENT SHEET BACK TO CHURCH.** You
can mail it or simply drop it in the offering plate. Even if you
are using Simply Giving, please fill out a card so your
commitment can be included in the total amount.

**BAKERS NEEDED!...Blue Church will be holding a Bake
Sale on Sunday, March 18th from 1 – 5 PM at the Blue
Church Art Annual Student Show in Fellowship Hall.**
Baked goods can be dropped off on Saturday, March 17th, or
Sunday morning, March 18th.

**EASTER EGG HUNT – 10:00 AM Easter Sunday. Ages 1
month to 12 years!**

Note: We are asking you to pick up your carton of plastic
eggs, take them home and fill them with your favorite sweets
(please no peanut products) and bring them back to church.
Also, we are asking for hard boiled colored eggs for the egg
hunt. Please bring them to church by March 31st. Thanks!

