

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✕ MARCH 18, 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.**

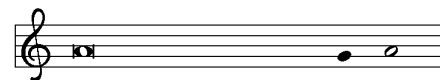
HYMN #595 "JESUS LOVES ME"

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.



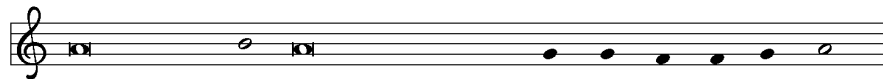
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

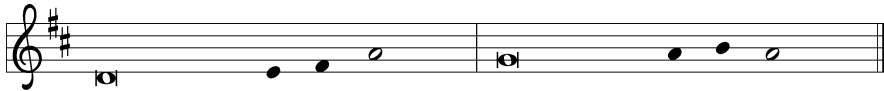
PRAYER OF THE DAY

The LORD be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 51:1-12 *Sung responsively* *Tone #4*



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your
sight;**

**so you are justified when you speak and right | in your
judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

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 12th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 12:20-33

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #330 "SEED THAT IN EARTH IS DYING"

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 — “IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS” - JEFF LIPPENCOTT

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

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a 'P' (Piano) dynamic and the second with a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.'

Two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff begins with a 'P' (Piano) dynamic and the second with a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic. The lyrics are: '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:

Four staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff begins with a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic. The lyrics are: '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.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION - #759 "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"

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 #659 "WILL YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT"

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.....

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT..... God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.:

ABOUT THE READINGS...

JEREMIAH 31:31-34: The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

HEBREWS 5:5-10: Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

JOHN 12:20-33: Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETER	Irene Frederick
ACOLYTE	Savannah Giannattasio
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Amy Ortwein
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Amy Ortwein

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 – 5th Sunday in Lent.
Blue Church Art Annual Student Show in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Please stop by to enjoy all the talented works of the students. Bake Sale.
7 PM Catechism.

MON.: 6:30 – 7:45 PM – Girl Scout Troop Meeting.

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Christian Education – Sunday Fun Day – Fun and games for the young and young at heart followed by Breakfast.
10:30 AM Worship/Palm Sunday/Procession of Palms.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

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. There is a sheet in the Narthex to add your suggestions of things that need to be repaired.

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

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

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 5 – Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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!
