

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ✠ MARCH 24, 2019

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

God at the margins,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ✠ Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

HYMN #324 IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

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.



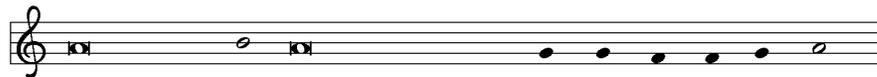
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

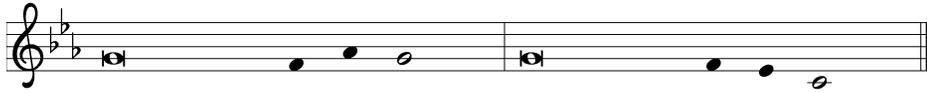
Let us pray...Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

ISAIAH 55:1-9

PSALM 63:1-8 *Sung responsively*

Tone #9



O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**2Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

**3For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.**

**4So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

**5My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**

**6when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

**7For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

**8My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING:

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

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. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

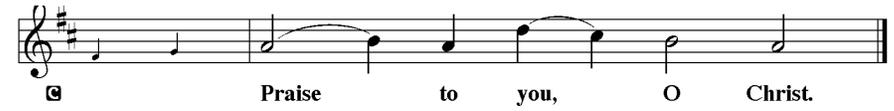


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

LUKE 13:1-9

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON**HYMN #587*****THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY*****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: **"Your mercy is great."**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING – "CHRIST IS ABLE TO SAVE"

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...Generous God,

You feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. 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

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

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 - #779 AMAZING GRACE

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 #624 JESUS STILL LEAD ON

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.....

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.....*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

ISAIAH 55:1-9: To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13: Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

LUKE 13:1-9: Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: O God, my soul thirsts for you (*Psalm 63:1*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Ever-faithful God, you do not test us beyond our strength. Keep us steadfast in your word and bring forth good fruit in our lives. 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: Jeanette Blackwood, Karen Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Joel Hammond, Linda Kulp, John Kupiszewski, Mary Levy, Janet Lick, Carl Ritter, Christine Robins, Myrtle Tracy

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 those 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	Shirley Hildebrand
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Shirley Hildebrand, Maggie Fried
CHURCHTIME NURSERY	Cathy Link
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.

WED.: 9 AM Quilting.

SAT.: 8 AM Spring Work Party around Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship – 4th Sunday in Lent.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

APRIL 7 – 6 PM Catechism.
APRIL 8 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.
APRIL 14 – 10:30 AM. PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP.
APRIL 18 – 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP.
APRIL 19 – 7 PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP.
APRIL 21 – EASTER DAY.
9 AM Easter Breakfast.
10 AM Easter Egg Hunt.
10:30 AM Worship.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of Family and Friends.
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Mike and Paula Clark

HISTORIC MEMORABILIA from Blue Church is available in the Narthex for your taking. The items are duplicates from the Archives. These are great mementos from the past history of Blue Church.

A SPRING WORK PARTY will take place on Saturday, March 30th beginning at 8 AM. Some of the items on the agenda will be:

1. Clean up outside for the Easter Egg Hunt.
2. Replace timer in shed.
3. Fix the drawer in the room with the PA system.
4. Clean rooms for the school coming in Fall.
5. Paint ladies bathroom.
6. Move stones from the grove to the stream.

Please plan to help even if you can only offer a small amount of your time. All help is appreciated.

A PERSON OR PERSONS are needed to help with the distribution of the produce and bread at Betty Lou's Food Pantry on a rotating basis. See Deb Stover if you can help or for more information.

EASTER BREAKFAST – Donations of breakfast casseroles, bacon, sausage, waffles, etc. are needed for the Easter breakfast to be held at 9 AM Easter Day. Also needed are persons to help to set up on Saturday, April 20th at 10 AM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or contact Deb Stover with any questions – 484-437-3131.

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!

Stewardship Snippet

March 24, 2019 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 55:2 – Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Stewardship is about making wise choices in life – choices that promote health, wellbeing and faithful living. Isaiah asks the key questions and provides wise advice.

ELIGIBLE THRIVENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOICE DOLLARS AVAILABLE have until **March 31, 2019**, to direct any remaining Choice Dollars. Help support Blue Church. Last year Blue Church received **\$908.00** 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.

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK....

MARCH 25 – ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

Nine months before Christmas the church celebrates the annunciation. In Luke the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God, and she responds, “Here am I, the servant of the LORD.” Ancient scholars believed that March 25 was also the day on which creation began and was the date of Jesus’ death on the cross. Thus, from the sixth to eighth centuries, March 25 was observed as New Year’s Day in much of Christian Europe.