

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✠ MARCH 31, 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.**

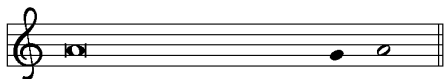
HYMN #675 O CHRIST, OUR LIGHT, O RADIANCE TRUE

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.



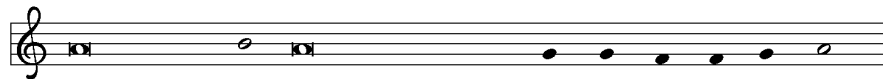
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of 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:

JOSHUA 5:9-12

PSALM 32 *Sung responsively*

Tone #9



Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

**2Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

**3While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.**

**4For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

**5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my
guilt.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

**6Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in |
time of trouble;**

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

**7You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

**8I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should
go; I will guide you | with my eye.**

**9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will | not stay near you."**

**10Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

**11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

SECOND READING:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

VERSE

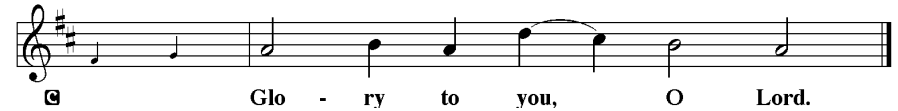


Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th Chapter.

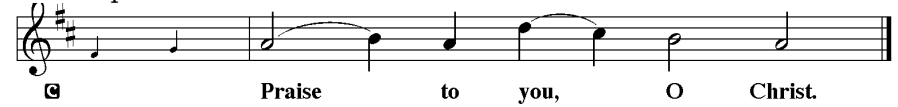


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #606

OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

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 – “OH HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME” – LANI SMITH

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

P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

G 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

G 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 - #592 JUST AS I AM

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 #604 O CHRIST, OUR HOPE

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 psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

JOSHUA 5:9-12: By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21: One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32: Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: You are a hiding place for me. (*Psalm 32:7*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: As deep as the sea and as high as the heavens is your mercy, O God. With the power of your Spirit, forgive us, heal us, and make us strong. 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	Loraine Kline
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat

CANTOR
USHERS

Ron Fried
Joyce Fulford,
Susan Clemens-Bruder
Gloria Knappenberger
Ron Fried

CHURCHTIME NURSERY
CHURCH COUNCIL REP

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
WED.: **9 AM** Quilting.
NEXT SUN.: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship – 5th Sunday in Lent.
6 PM Catechism.

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:
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. Donations appreciated.

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!

THE BAKE SALE HELD AT THE BLUE CHURCH ART SHOW NETTED A PROFIT OF \$142.00 TO BENEFIT BLUE CHURCH. Thanks to all the bakers and helpers.

Stewardship Snippet

March 31, 2019 (4th Sunday in Lent)

2 Corinthians 5:17 – So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The way a bubbling spring renews and refreshes a stream bed, so the Holy Spirit continually renews our souls. Relax and be continually renewed in Christ.

Joshua 5:9-12 – 1st Reading

The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal* to this day.

While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.
