

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ✕ MARCH 4, 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.**

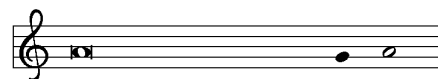
**HYMN #772 "OH, THAT THE LORD WOULD GUIDE MY WAYS"**

## GREETING

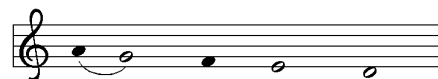
The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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.



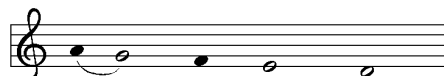
Lord, have mer - cy.



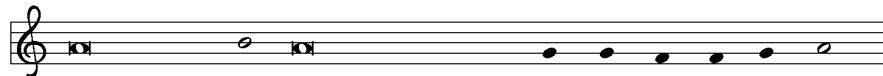
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



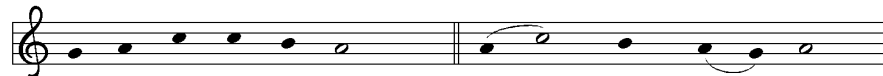
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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...Holy God, through you Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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:

EXODUS 20:1-17

## PSALM 19 *Sung responsively*

Tone #2



- <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale | to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**  
<sup>3</sup>Although they have no | words or language,  
and their voices | are not heard,  
<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands,  
and their message to the ends | of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**  
<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.  
<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of | it again;  
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**  
<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.  
<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**  
<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**  
<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is | great reward.  
<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's | own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion | over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable | in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

## SECOND READING:

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## HOLY GOSPEL:

ST. JOHN 2:13-22

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

### HYMN #652

*"BUILT ON A ROCK"*

### 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 — "BEYOND 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**

The Lord be with you. And also 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.



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



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION - #793 "BE THOU MY VISION"

### 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 #705

*"GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY"*

## 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

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## THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR.....

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.....** *The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.*

### ABOUT THE READINGS...

**EXODUS 20:1-17:** After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property. **I CORINTHIANS 1:18-25:** The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

**JOHN 2:13-22:** Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>GREETERS</b>	Mike and Paula Clark
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	
<b>LECTOR</b>	Sherry Farrell
<b>CANTOR</b>	Ron Fried
<b>USHERS</b>	Ron & Carol Stoudt
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Ed Risi

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**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.*

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**CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD**

**TODAY:** 9 AM Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church.  
9:30 – 10:15 AM Christian Education.  
10:30 AM Worship.

**MON.:** 6:30 – 7:45 PM Girl Scout Troops 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/4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent.  
Daylight Savings time begins.

*COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!*

**MARCH 11 – Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn your clocks ahead one hour.**

**MARCH 12 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

**MARCH 18 – 1 – 5 PM Blue Church Art Annual Show.**

**MARCH 25 – Palm Sunday – 10:30 AM Worship.**

**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.**

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**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

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**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](mailto: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 3 – O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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**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.

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**BAKERS NEEDED!...**Blue Church will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 5 PM at the Blue Church Art Annual Student Show in Fellowship Hall.

Baked goods can be dropped off on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, or Sunday morning, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more, or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

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**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.

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