

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Third Sunday in Lent ✕ March 7, 2021**

**PRELUDE – “WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS”**

**– FENTON GRODEN**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✕ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✕ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

**HYMN #327 “THROUGH THE NIGHT OF DOUBT AND SORROW”**

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory 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 revives 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 rejoice 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 endures 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 servant 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**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 2:13-22**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN #723 "CANTICLE OF THE TURNING"**

**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**

**THE PRAYERS**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** *The pastor offers the 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**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER**

Let us pray...God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

**HYMN #660 "LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**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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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Lillian Frey, Ann Greensweig, Shirley Hildebrand, Walt Lehr, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat

**Other concerns:** Todd and Dottie.

*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.*

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## **LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>LECTOR</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>GREETERS</b>	John & Marcy Sumoski
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	John Sumoski

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**SPONSOR CHARTS...**There are still many open dates on the charts to sponsor the weekly gifts to the church – Bulletins, Sanctuary Lamp Candle, Wine & Bread, etc. Your sponsorship helps defray the costs of these items. Simply sign the chart and a payment envelope will be sent to you the week of your sponsorship.

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If you have an email address, please notify the church office so it can be added to the group list and you can be included when church information is sent out.

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## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**MONDAY, MAR. 8 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

**THURSDAY, MAR. 11 – 6:30 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.**

**SUNDAY, MAR. 14 – 10:30 AM 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in Lent/Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks ahead one hour.**

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Greg & Wendy Storat in honor of Sue Storat’s Birthday.

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY...**Let the words of my mouth be acceptable to you, O Lord. (*Psalms 19:14*)

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK...**Lord Jesus Christ, you are the power and wisdom of God. Help us to grow in your wisdom and power through the mystery of your dying and rising. Amen.

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## **BLUE CHURCH NOTES**

### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one’s nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.
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**UPDATE ON BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY**

We are still collecting detergent for the Pantry. There is an increased demand and they are requesting 100 bottles for our month, which is September. We still have 6 months to collect and we have 18 so far.

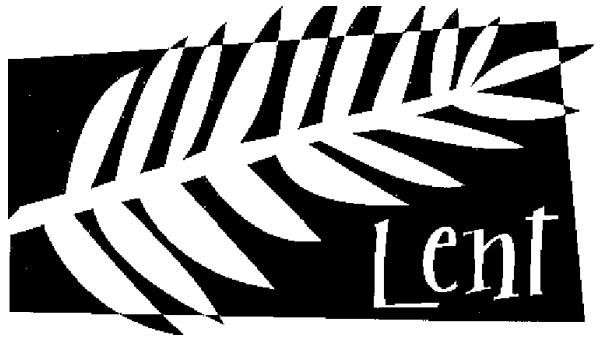
They can be left at the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. They can also be placed in the Narthex.

In addition, the most needed items at the Pantry right now are:

- Meat helpers (especially tuna helper)
- Toilet Paper
- Non-sugar cereals
- Canned Pasta
- Tooth Brushes
- Deodorant
- Body wash

You are always welcome to bring these items to church, or if it is more convenient, they can be brought directly to the Pantry on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 AM. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

We also have a need for someone to organize donations of furniture/appliances. This only involves phone calls/emails – no physical pick up or delivery. We receive calls to donate these things sometimes and there is always someone who needs that item. We just need someone to make the connections of giver to receiver.



## **LESSONS**

### **Exodus 20:1-17 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

20 Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before\* me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation\* of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>For six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.\*

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### **John 2:13-22 - Gospel**

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a

market-place!’<sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’<sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’<sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’<sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body.<sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church  
Prayers ✠ Third Sunday in Lent ✠  
March 7, 2021

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

**“Your mercy is great.”**

*A brief silence*

A: There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

A: The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

A: Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through

legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

A: Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Lillian, Ann, Shirley, Walt, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

A: You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to Blue Church and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

A: The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.

**“Your mercy is great.”**

**Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**