

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

610-965-9500 e-mail: bluechch@ptd.net Website: stpaulscoopersburg.com

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

Blue Church Cemetery – 484-201-5048; e-mail: bluechurchcemetery@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 12, 2019

PRELUDE – "THE GOOD SHEPHERD" – GREGG SEWELL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you. All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on Blue Church, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN #385 "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING!"

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the 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...O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 9:36-43

PSALM 23 (Sung Responsively) Psalm Tone 10



The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

**2The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

**3You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.**

**4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they |
comfort me.**

**5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.**

**6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

SECOND LESSON:

REVELATION 7:9-17

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 10:22-30

The Gospel of the LORD.



THE SERMON

HYMN #778 "THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD"

As the hymn is sung, the candidates, sponsors, and parents gather at the font.

THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM & BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

The Pastor addresses the assembly

P: In baptism God frees us from sin and death by uniting us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God, we are made members of the Church, the body of Christ, and we are commissioned for Christ's ministry of justice and peace.

The Pastor addresses the parents

P: Trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized?

R: We do.

P: As you present Jackson Edward Oleskowitz for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace among all people. Parents, do you promise to help Jackson grow in the Christian faith and life?

R: We do.

The Pastor addresses the assembly

P: People of God, do you promise to support Jackson and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C: We do.

The Pastor addresses the parents

P: I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R: We do.

The Pastor addresses the assembly

P: With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

The Pastor begins the thanksgiving

P: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our LORD, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Water is poured three times in the name of the Triune God

P: Jackson Edward Oleskowitz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

C: Blessed be God, the source of all life, the Word of Salvation, the Spirit of mercy.

The Pastor prays for the gift of the Holy Spirit

P: Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Jackson with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The Pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized

P: Jackson Edward, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

A lighted candle is given to the sponsors on behalf of the newly baptized

A: Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen.
Shine with the light of Christ.

A: Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Your mercy is great."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING — "ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB" — KEITH WILBANKS

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...Risen One,
as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

THE 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 our 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

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

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 - #782 "MY SHEPHERD YOU SUPPLY MY NEED"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of the living God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

HYMN #789

"SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE – "FINALE" – GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN

☩ ☩ ☩

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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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR...FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 9:36-43: *Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

REVELATION 7:9-17: *Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.*

JOHN 10:22-30: *Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: I fear no evil, O Lord, for you are with me.
(Psalm 23:4)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: O Lord Jesus, open our ears to hear your voice so that we may follow you through this life until that day when you welcome us in the house of the Lord. 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: Karen Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Joel Hammond, John Kupiszewski, Carl Ritter, Ruth Stives, Myrtle Tracy

Other Concerns: The family and friends of Jesse Blackwood.
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	Laurie Christine
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dick Storat
LECTOR	Dick Storat
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Shirley Hildebrand, Maggie Fried
ALTAR CARE	John & Marcy Sumoski
CHURCHTIME NURSERY	Cathy Link
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Pete & Cathy Link
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY:	9 AM Choir Rehearsal. 9:30 AM Christian Education. 10:30 AM Worship/Jackson Edward Oleskowitz Baptism.
MON.:	7 PM Church Council Meeting.
WED.:	9 AM Quilting.
NEXT SUN.:	9 AM Choir Rehearsal. 9:30 AM Christian Education. 10:30 AM Worship.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

June 1 - 9 AM - 4 PM Synod Assembly, Hazleton, Pa.

WE WELCOME JACKSON EDWARD OLESKOWITZ through the Sacrament of Baptism into the whole Church of Jesus Christ and the congregation of Blue Church today. Pray that the gift of the Holy Spirit will lead him in the knowledge of the LORD, and guide his parents, Jim and Lauren.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Mike and Paula Clark in memory of Family and Friends.

BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in loving memory of Family and Friends.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Ron & Carol Stoudt

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Richard and Beverly Lerch in memory of Loved Ones.

TWO REPRESENTATIVES (MALE AND FEMALE) ARE NEEDED TO ATTEND THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 1ST FROM 9 AM - 4 PM AT GENETTI BALLROOMS INN & SUITES AT HAZLETON, PA. Please talk to Pastor Jim for more information.

Stewardship Snippet

May 12, 2019 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 9:36 – Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference in the life of a community. Tabitha touched people with good works, including making clothes for others. How are you using your God-given talents for the sake of others?