

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 26, 2019

PRELUDE – “MEDITATION ON ‘MY COUNTRY ‘TIS OF THEE’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROGATION BLESSING (SEE INSERT)

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 #891- GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND

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...Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 16:9-15

PSALM 67

(Sung Responsively)

Psalm Tone 6



- May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- 2Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
- 3Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.**
- 4Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**
- 5Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.**
- 6The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
- 7May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.**

SECOND LESSON:

REVELATION 21:10, 22-22:5

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA



The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 14:23-29

The Gospel of the LORD.



THE SERMON

HYMN #815 I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

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

Response : **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING – “OUR HOPE IS IN THE LORD” – HAL WRIGHT

Offering is gathered for the poor and those with needs in our community and world.

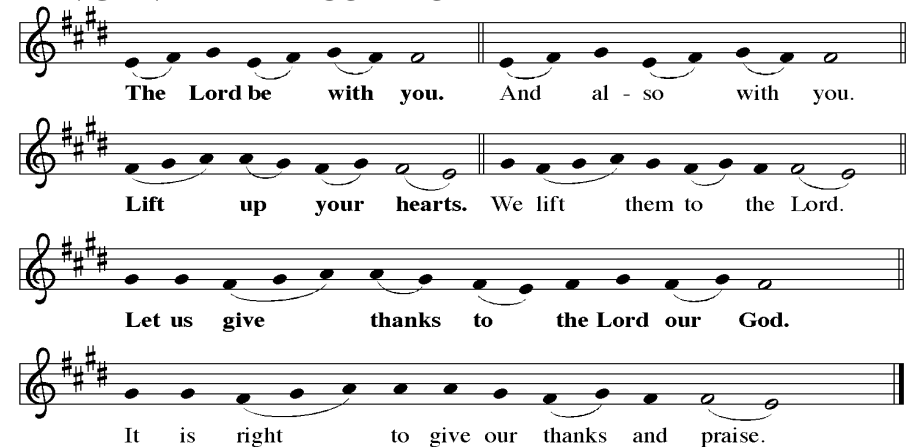
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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.*

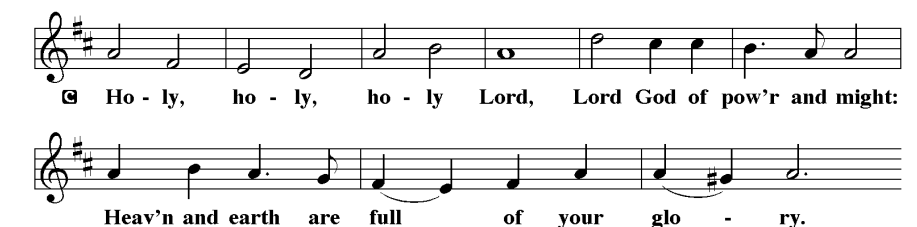
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...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



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





EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's Prayer.

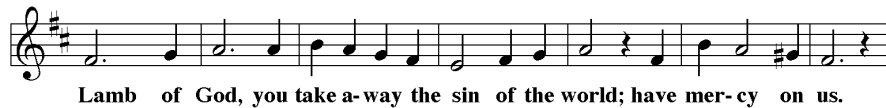
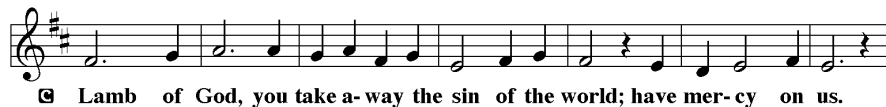
LORD'S PRAYER

**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



HOLY COMMUNION - #492 EAT THIS BREAD

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 #890

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE – “CHRIST, ABOVE ALL GLORY SEATED” – JAMES MANSFIELD



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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....SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 16:9-15: *A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

REVELATION 21:10, 22—22:5: *John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet is this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.*

JOHN 14:23-29: *As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Lord, come and stay in our home.
(Acts 16:15)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Great and Holy Spirit, when we are fearful, give us courage; when we are troubled, give us peace; when we are cold, warm us with your love. 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: Greg Baringer, Joyce Christman, Karen Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Joel Hammond, John Kupiszewski, Carl Ritter, Ruth Stives, 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 |
| GREETERS | John & Marcy Sumoski |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Amy Ortwein |
| LECTOR | Amy Ortwein |
| CANTOR | Ron Fried |
| USHERS | Greg & Wendy Storat |
| ALTAR CARE | John & Marcy Sumoski |
| CHURCHTIME NURSERY | |
| ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY | Ron & Maggie Fried |
| CHURCH COUNCIL REP | Amy Ortwein |

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal. (Last day until Fall).
9:30 AM Christian Education. (Last day until Fall).
10:30 AM Worship/ Service of Rogation. (9:30 AM Worship next Sunday).

WED.: 9 AM Quilting.

SAT.: 9 AM – 4 PM Synod Assembly, Hazleton.

NEXT SUN.: 9:30 AM Worship./Wall Dedication.

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

June 8 - 8 AM – Church Clean Up

June 9 - 9:30 AM Worship – Pentecost/Confirmation.

June 10 - 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

June 23 - 9:30 AM Worship at Upper Saucon Park/Pot Luck Lunch.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS...by Anne Nichols in honor of Nikki Coleman's Birthday.

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.

IN SEARCH OF:

- 1. Someone willing to coordinate a Parish Photo Directory.**
- 2. Someone willing to take pictures of the events happening at Blue Church.**

Talk to Pastor Jim or any Church Council member for more information.

**A CHURCH CLEANUP IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY,
JUNE 8TH AT 8:00 AM.**

Some of the projects to be tackled are:

1. Finish the ramps for the bridge.
2. Stain the steps to the parking lot.
3. Install thermostats with covers.
4. Find vent for the sewer.
5. Clean up mulch and branches.
6. Bottom red door doesn't close.
7. Replace light in the kitchen and right side of worship area.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for you to sign up to help. Any amount of time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Stewardship Snippet

May 26, 2019 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 16:15 – When Lydia and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.”

Hospitality and community go hand in hand. God opens Lydia's heart, and she opens her home to Paul and his companions. How can we show a wide welcome in our worshiping communities and to the neighborhoods around us?

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...

MAY 27 – JOHN CALVIN, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1564

John Calvin began his studies in theology at the University of Paris when he was fourteen. In his mid-twenties he experienced a conversion that led him to embrace the views of the Reformation. His theological ideas are systematically laid out in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. He is also well known for his commentaries on scripture. He was a preacher in Geneva, was banished once, and then later returned to reform the city under a theocratic constitution.

MAY 31 – VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH

Sometime after the Annunciation, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. This occasion is sometimes referred to simply as “The Visitation.” Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words “Blessed are you among women,” and Mary responded with her famous song, the Magnificat. Luke's gospel tells that even John the Baptist rejoiced and leapt in his mother's womb when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting. On this festival two women are seen: one, seemingly too old to have a child, bears the last prophet of the old covenant, and the other, quite young, bears the incarnate Word and the new covenant.

JUNE 1 – JUSTIN, MARTYR AT ROME, DIED AROUND 165

Justin was born of pagan parents. At Ephesus he was moved by stories of early Christian martyrs and came under the influence of an elderly Christian man he met there. Justin described his conversion by saying, “Straightway a flame was kindled in my soul and a love of the prophets and those who are friends of Christ possessed me.” Justin was a teacher of philosophy and engaged in debates about the truth of Christian faith. He was arrested and jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion. He refused to renounce his faith, and he and six of his students, one a woman, were beheaded.

Justin's description of early Christian worship around the year 150 is one of the foundations of the church's pattern of worship, East and West.

ROGATION BLESSING

“Rogation” is connected to the Latin word for “asking,” and refers to a traditional time of praying for agriculture. Traditionally celebrated on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the Sixth Sunday in Easter, Rogation Services have been a time to pray for planting and for those working with the land. In rural areas, many people bless the elements used in farming, the fields, the seeds and the animals. In urban areas a blessing of gardens, and local businesses can be done. It might also be a time to show gratitude for soil, water and growth, and to congregation members to think carefully of the food they eat, their care of water, earth and seed.

ROGATION PRAYER FOR SEEDS

Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ROGATION PRAYER FOR THE SOIL

Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ROGATION PRAYER FOR WATER AND RAIN

Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon this garden, and grant that it may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demands our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.