

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Holy Trinity – May 30, 2021

PRELUDE – “Come Thou, Almighty King” – Richard DeCosta

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #413 “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

GREETING

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...Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 6:1-8

PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:12-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #412 *“COME, JOIN THE DANCE OF TRINITY”*

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: hear our prayer.

EUCHARISTIC 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,**

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...Eternal LORD and God, we worship you in the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity. Grant that the sacrament we have received may bring us salvation and keep us faithful to the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #756 *“ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE”*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING” – MARVIN GASPARD

✠ ✠ ✠

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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....THE HOLY TRINITY ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe; that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul’s words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

ISAIAH 6:1-8: *This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. His liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.*

ROMANS 8:12-17: *In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and sisters and brothers with Christ the Son.*

JOHN 3:1-17: *Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

PRAYER FOR TRINITY SUNDAY: The earth is full of your glory, O God. (See Isaiah 6:3)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Holy Trinity, we are baptized into your life. Open our hearts to your mysterious love and lead us to everlasting communion in you. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacatterra, Frank Kelly, Peter Link, Ken Ortwein, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Stephen.

Other concerns:

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
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Maggie Fried
GREETERS	Roger & Gloria Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Roger Knappenberger

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

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

COMMUNION WINE & BREAD...by Greg & Wendy Storat

PLEASE PASS IT ON... Pastor Jim is now available to make home visits for those wishing Holy Communion. He has had both his shots but the proper Covid precautions will still be needed (mask wearing). Please call the church office (610-965-9500) to set up an appointment for the visit. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE 6 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.
The Fellowship Hall will be air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.
MON. JUNE 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY UPDATE... Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked beans Kidney Beans

Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

Also, they are looking for someone to take over managing the database of patrons, volunteers, church dates, etc., and reporting weekly numbers to Second Harvest. Excel is currently used.

Also looking for someone to take over coordinating the volunteers for the two distributions. This requires use of emails and texts. If anyone is interested, please contact Chris Page (or talk to Deb Stover - 484-437-3831) for more information.

MORE EXCITING NEWS FOR BETTY LOU'S PANTRY...

Upper Saucon Township has approved the YMCA's use of the land which is next to the library where the old bus station used to be. This was the 19th property that was vetted by the Greater Lehigh Valley YMCA and was well worth the wait. The Y is very excited about Betty Lou's Pantry being located within their facility.

The first step will be to complete a very systematic feasibility study that has been used successfully many times in the past. This can take up to 9 months. Assuming the study proves that raising the funds is feasible, the fundraising will begin. This can take up to 3 years but is projected to be more like 18-24 months. The final step is construction which can take up to 2 years. Total time is upwards of 5-6 years.

More information will be posted as things proceed.

LESSONS

Isaiah 6:1-8 – 1st Lesson

6In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'
⁴The pivots* on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph* touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.'
⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

Romans 8:12-17 – 2nd Lesson

12 So then, brothers and sisters,* we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba!* Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness* with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3:1-17 - Gospel

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus* by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'
³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.*'
⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'
⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and

Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You* must be born from above."* ⁸The wind* blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you* do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.* ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ☒ The Holy Trinity ☒
May 30, 2021

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer, responding,

"hear our prayer."

A brief silence

A: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Peter, Ken, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

"hear our prayer."

A: We pray for Blue Church, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified

through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,
“hear our prayer.”

A: We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,
“hear our prayer.”

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. Amen.

WE REMEMBER THIS WEEK...

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.