

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 6, 2018

**PRELUDE – “Siciliana” - Alcoh
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain (and snow).

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for those newly baptized, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #358 "GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US"

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 10:44-48

PSALM 98 *Sung responsively* **Psalm Tone 9**

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it, the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:1-6

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 15th Chapter.

☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9-17

The Gospel of the LORD.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #359 "WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL"

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. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING - "FAMILY OF FAITH" - KENN MANN

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

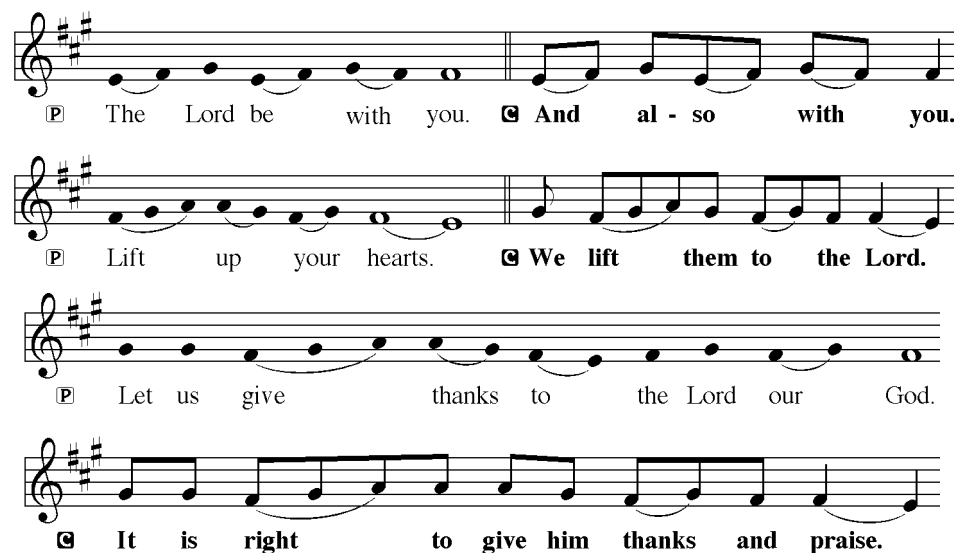
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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...Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



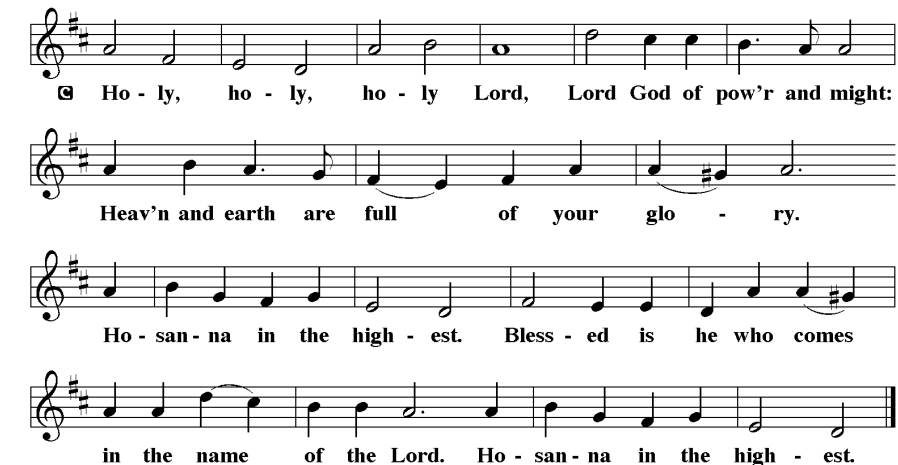
The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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



C 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

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.
Hallelujah!

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 - #496 "ONE BREAD, ONE BODY"

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God, who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.
Almighty God, Father, ☒ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #631

"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING"

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "A CHEERFUL TRUMPET" – PATRICA LOU HARRIS



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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

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ACTS 10:44-48: *While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

1 JOHN 5:1-6: *God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

JOHN 15:9-17: *On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

PRAYER FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: I have chosen you to bear fruit that will last. (See John 15:16)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Risen LORD, you call us your friends. Strengthen us in the bonds of friendship and help us serve the stranger in need. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering: Connie Fazekas, Doris Heiserman, Jason Homlish, Marie Miller, Carl Ritter, Shannon Silliman, Irmis

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.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
GREETER	Lillian Frey
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR/CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Kathy Exner

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM Worship.
7 PM Confirmation Class.

MON.: 6:30 – 7:45 PM Troop 6070/6344 Mtg.

WED.: 9 AM Quilting at Blue Church.

NEXT SUN.: **9 AM Choir Rehearsal.**
9:30 AM Christian Education at Blue Church.
10:30 AM Worship.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

MAY 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

MAY 19 – 8:00 AM Mulch and Garden day at Blue Church. Bring wheelbarrows, rakes and gloves.

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Bill and Kathy Exner in honor of their 56th Wedding Anniversary.

BULLETINS...by Joyce Christman in memory of family and friends.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Bill and Kathy Exner

HAPPENING THIS WEEK.....

MAY 8 – JULIAN OF NORWICH, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED AROUND 1416

Julian (or Juliana) was most likely a Benedictine nun living in an isolated cell attached to the Carrow Priory in Norwich, England. Definite facts about her life are sparse. However, when she was about thirty years old, she reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love. A prayer and a hymn attributed to Julian are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (p. 87, #735).

MAY 9 – NICOLAUS LUDWIG VON ZINZENDORF, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, HYMNWRITER, DIED 1760

Count Zinzendorf was born into an aristocratic family and after the death of his father was raised by his Pietistic grandmother. This influence was a lasting one, and he moved away from what he felt was an overly intellectual Lutheranism. When he was twenty-two, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on his lands. He agreed, and they established a settlement they called Herrnhut, or "the Lord's watch." Eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith, including "Jesus, Still Lead On" (ELW 624).