

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost – October 24, 2021

PRELUDE – “Under His Wings” – Matthew McConnell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence for reflection

God our comforter,
like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMN #873 REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

GREETING

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 31:7-9

PSALM 126

Spoken responsively

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND LESSON:

HEBREWS 7:23-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 10:46-52

The Gospel of the LORD.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

ANTHEN

**“JESUS WHAT A FRIEND OF SINNERS” –
DENNIS ALLEN**

HYMN #708

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

APOSTLES' CREED

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 PRAYERS *Response : Your mercy is great.*

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,**

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...Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn
the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into
the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of
your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering
world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN #551 THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — "GRAND MARCH" — JASON KRUG

✠ ✠ ✠

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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 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as "Son of David" he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won't give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

JEREMIAH 31:7-9: *This passage speaks not only of the southern kingdom, Judah, and its homecoming from exile in Babylon, but also of the northern kingdom ("Israel" or "Ephraim") and its restoration. The northern tribes of Israel had been lost in exile to Assyria more than a century before Jeremiah prophesied.*

HEBREWS 7:23-28: *Human priests of old offered sacrifice for their own sins and served only until their death. In contrast, Jesus is God's Son, the holy, sinless, resurrected high priest. Death did not terminate his priestly service, but through his death he has interceded for our sins.*

MARK 10:46-52: *Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 21: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. (Mark 10:47)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Jesus, you gave the blind man his sight. Give us the light to see you clearly and to follow you with sincerity of heart. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Frank Kelly, Penny, 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 Dick Storat
LECTOR Dick Storat
GREETER Joyce Fulford
CHURCH COUNCIL REP John & Marcy Sumoski

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Roger & Edie Knappenberger

LOOKING AHEAD

SUN. OCTOBER 31 – 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.

SUN. OCTOBER 31 – 10:30 AM Worship - Reformation

MANY THANKS for the beautiful flowers that were in church on October 17th in honor of my Birthday.

Janet, myself and my father, Ray also want to thank everyone for all the prayers that we received last week. They were appreciated.

Pastor Jim

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

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Canned Pasta Boxed Potatoes

Other things always needed:

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

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE IS NOW UNDER WAY. Don't throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. They are greatly appreciated.

THERE ARE STILL MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY CANDLES, ETC.

for the rest of the year. Please check the open dates on the calendars on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

THINKING AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR PANTRY FAMILIES.

In view of the still unstable virus spread, we will again forego physical presents and give gift cards so parents can purchase gifts for the children. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or sent to the church by mail. Please make checks out to BLUE CHURCH so one check can be sent to Betty Lou's Pantry. Just please remember to put in the memo line that your donation is for BLP Christmas gift cards. Please have donations in by November 14th. Thanks for all your help!

HAPPENING IN THE CHURCH YEAR THIS WEEK..

OCTOBER 28 – Simon and Jude, Apostles

Little is known about Simon and Jude. In New Testament lists of the apostles, Simon the "zealot" or Cananaean is mentioned, but he is never mentioned apart from these lists. Jude, sometimes called Thaddeus, is also mentioned in lists of the twelve. At the last supper Jude asked Jesus why he had chosen to reveal himself to the disciples but not to the world. A traditional story about Simon and Jude says that they traveled together on a missionary journey to Persia and were both martyred there.

LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:7-9 – 1st Lesson

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations* I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hebrews 7:23-28 – 2nd Lesson

²³ Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save* those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other* high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Mark 10:46-52 - Gospel

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher,* let me see again.' ⁵²Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed *him on the way.*

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost ✕
October 24, 2021

A: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation, responding,

"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world that serve as centers of prayer and action. Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists, and all who are sent to share your song of joy. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Holy One, we give you thanks for generous land that produces abundant harvests. Strengthen and protect all soils, from rooftop gardens to prairie farmlands, to patio planters to fertile valleys, and bless all who lovingly tend them. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Ruling One, we give you thanks for leaders of nations who work to build up the common good. Strengthen efforts of reconciliation among all nations, that peace extends in every direction. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others. Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain. Send healing and relief to all who are sick. Today we pray especially for: Sandra, Bill, Ann, Ray, Frank, Stephen, Penny, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others. Inspire generosity in your people, so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations.

Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Living One, we give you thanks for the saints who have increased our faith. Give us courage to follow in hope until you gather us all around your table of abundance.

Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. Amen.