

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, Pa 18036

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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

The 17th after Pentecost ✠ September 16, 2018

PRELUDE – “BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS” – TIM DORAN
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN #660 “LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



♩ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

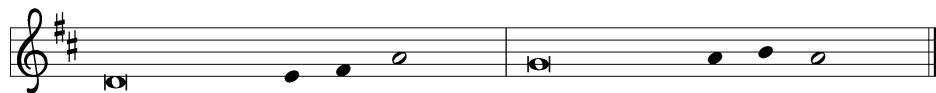
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 116:1-9 *Sung responsively* **Tone 4**



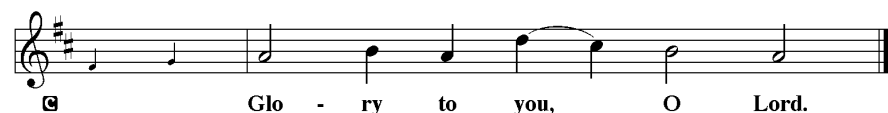
¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
²for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.
⁴Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."
⁵Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.
⁶The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.
⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.
⁸For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;
⁹I will walk in the presence | of the LORD
in the land | of the living.

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 3:1-12

VERSE

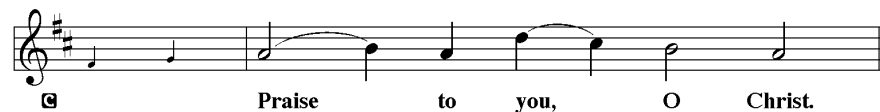


The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-38

The Gospel of the LORD.



SERMON

HYMN #798 – "WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME"

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 : hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING – "YOU ARE" – MARK ROACH

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

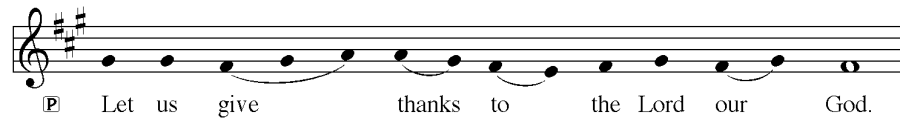
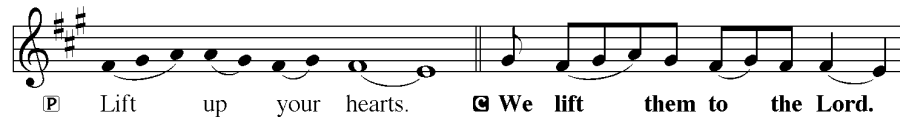
OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

*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

God of life,
**you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life
and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use
them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *The pastor offers the prayer.*

LORD'S PRAYER

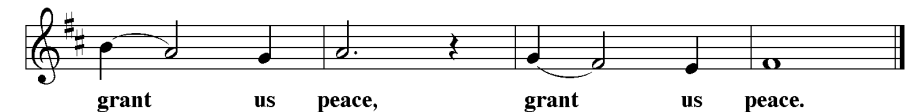
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**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,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

LAMB OF GOD



HOLY COMMUNION HYMN: #810 "O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED"
(USE THE FAMILIAR TUNE FROM #820)

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

Let us pray...Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #805 – “LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE- “VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST”- LANI SMITH

☩ ☩ ☩

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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 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Three weeks ago we heard John’s gospel’s version of Peter’s confession of faith. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of “messiah”) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

ISAIAH 50:4-9a: The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.

JAMES 3:1-12: This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.

MARK 8:27-38: This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 17: You are the Christ. (Mark 8:29)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: LORD Jesus Christ, open our ears so that we might hear you speak to us. 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: Claire Biser, Alton DeBold, Wendy Porter, Ann Ramage, Hattie Smith, Irmi
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
GREETERS	Warren & Lois Adams
ASSISTING MINISTER	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Dick Storat
CANTOR	Ron Fried
USHERS	Greg & Wendy Storat
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Ed Risi
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Sherry Farrell

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY: **9:00 AM** Choir Rehearsal. If you like to sing, please join us. New members are welcome.

10:30 AM Worship.

Yard Sale Committee Meeting immediately following Worship.

WED.: **9 AM** Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: **9 AM** Choir Rehearsal.

9:30 AM RALLY DAY - 10:30 AM WORSHIP.

COMING EVENTS - mark your calendar!

SEPT. 23 - RALLY DAY AT BLUE CHURCH.

SEPT. 30 - NEW MEMBER CLASSES (See Pastor Jim)

OCTOBER 13, 9 AM - 2 PM - BLUE CHURCH YARD SALE AT LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY, LIMEPORT.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, AND SANCTUARY LAMP...by

Joyce Fulford in honor of her Birthday.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Joyce Fulford

THE YARD SALE IS GETTING CLOSER!! IT WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 13TH from 9 AM - 2 PM at Lower Milford Fire Company in Limeport. There will be many ways for you to help make this event a success. Also, bakers are needed for the Bake Sale. Mark your calendar.

It's not too early to start saving all your unwanted "treasures" for this event.

Items for Church Yard Sale

We **will not** be accepting clothing.

Large appliances, such as stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, etc. **will not** be accepted.

Oversized items, such as furniture **will be** accepted,

HOWEVER, if your item does not sell, you are responsible for pick up and removal from Lower Milford Fire Company on

[Saturday, October 13](#), after the yard sale has ended at 2 p.m.

No Exceptions.

Due to the cancellation of Coopersburg Community Day, the drawing for the \$10,000 raffle will be on [Oct. 20](#) at our COBScars 5K run/walk and Kids Fun Run at DeSales after the run, approx. 11AM

Do you see anything around Blue Church that needs

repairs? If so, jot it down on the form on the clip board on the table in the Narthex and the Property Committee will look into fixing it.

BLUE CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>AUG.</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
RECEIPTS	\$ 5,263.00	\$53,567.63
EXPENSES	\$10,178.37	\$110,508.90
<u>(DEFICIT)</u>	(\$ 4,915.37)	(\$56,941.27)

ENDOWMENT FUND WITHDRAWN TO COVER EXPENSES

\$4,500.00 \$36,000.00

ENDOWMENT FUND INTEREST/REFUND \$ 6,114.49

James 3:1-12

³Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,* for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,* and is itself set on fire by hell.* ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters,* this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters,* yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.