

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. James Hammond 610-437-1960; jitrev1@verizon.net

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

The 18th after Pentecost ✠ September 23, 2018

PRELUDE – "SACRED HOUR" – ROY NOLTE
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 #843 "PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS"

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

PSALM 54 *Sung responsively* *Tone 6*



- ¹Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.
- ²**Hear my | prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words | of my mouth.
- ³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have |
sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.
- ⁴**Behold, God | is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.
- ⁵Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.
- ⁶**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.
- ⁷For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 3:13–4:3, 7-8A

VERSE

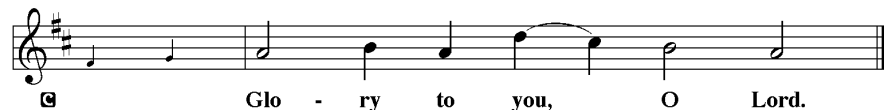


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

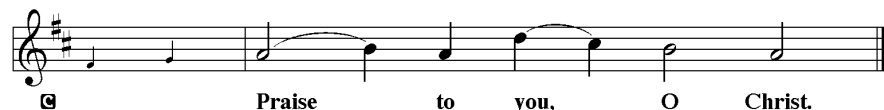
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 9:30-37

The Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #712 – “LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE”

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 – “GIVE ME A SERVANT’S HEART” – JULIENE

HUFSTETLER

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884

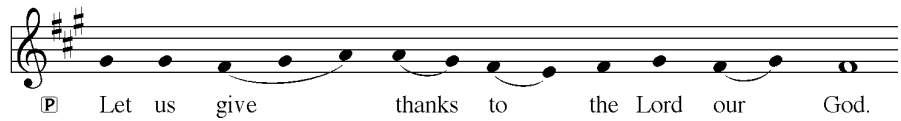
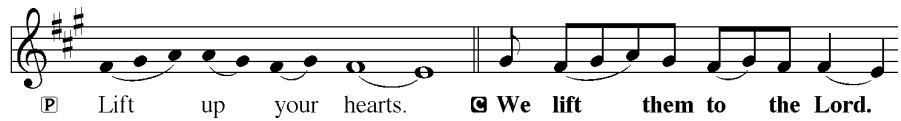
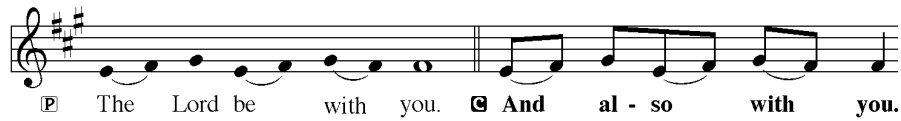
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

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

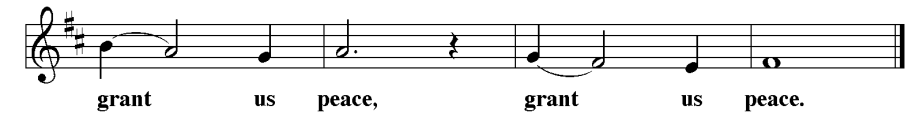
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**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: #781 "CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER"

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 #815 — “I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE- “MARCH”- LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

☩ ☩ ☩

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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 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

JEREMIAH 11:18-20: *Today’s reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God’s word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8A: *The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

MARK 8:30-37: *Jesus’ teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world’s definition of*

greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 18: Wisdom is full of mercy. *(James 3:17)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: LORD Jesus, give us the wisdom to recognize your presence, in the stranger, the friend, the outcast. 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, Joel Hammond, Wendy Porter, Ann Ramage, Hattie Smith, 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
GREETERS	Rudy & Marilynn Boardl
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Loraine Kline
CANTOR	Gwen Gibiser
USHERS	Anne Nichols, Diane Wirth
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Pete Link
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY	Dean & Deb Stover

CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD

TODAY:	9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal. If you like to sing, please join us. New members are welcome. 9:30 AM RALLY DAY. 10:30 AM Worship.
TUES.:	2 PM Worship at Valley Manor.
WED.:	9 AM Quilting.

NEXT SUN.: 9 AM Choir Rehearsal.
9:30 AM Christian Education.
10:30 AM WORSHIP/BLESSING OF BACK PACKS/
Kacey Lynne Eynon Baptism.
New Member Classes – (See Pastor Jim).

COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

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...by Paula and Mike Clark in honor of Family Birthdays.

BULLETINS...by Dean and Deb Stover in celebration of their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

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.

Blue Church is responsible for providing Betty Lou's Pantry with **80** bottles of laundry detergent for the month of December (our church's month to serve the pantry). The Pantry does not supply laundry detergent. We can start collecting them now to help reach that goal. Simply bring them to church and we will store them until December. Thanks for you help.

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH YEAR...

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS – On this festival day the church ponders the richness and variety of God' created order and the limits of human knowledge of it. The scriptures speak of angels (the word means "messengers") who worship God in heaven, and in both testaments angels speak for God on earth. They are remembered most visibly as they appear to the shepherds and announce the birth of the Savior. Michael is an angel whose name appears in Daniel as the heavenly being who leads the faithful dead to God's throne on the day of resurrection. In Revelation, Michael fights in a cosmic battle against Satan.
