

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Second Sunday of Advent ✠ December 5, 2021

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✠ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #264 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING & LIGHTING 2ND CANDLE

P: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Second candle is lit.

HYMN #240 "LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH"
(STANZA 2)

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...Stir up our hearts, LORD God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

MALACHI 3:1-4

PSALMODY: LUKE 1:68-79 *(Spoken responsively)*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,

you have come to your people and set them free.

**⁶⁹You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

**⁷²to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND LESSON:

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #269 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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."*

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**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

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

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Most High God, you have come among us at this
table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our
host and our guest. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we
may bound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ
Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

HYMN #275 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ ✠

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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.

“Gods 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.”
—Mission Statement adopted, February 2012

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

READINGS...*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”*

MALACHI 3:1-4: *The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “My messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11: *The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

LUKE 3:1-6: *John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: The dawn from on high shall break upon us. *(Luke 1:78)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God who comes to us from the future, make your church a holy and merciful temple, a people eager to prepare your way. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Marie Berghold, Cyndi Cline, Sandra Denora, Irene Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Anita Johnson, Frank Kelly, 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	Amy Ortwein
LECTOR	Amy Ortwein
GREETERS	Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

BULLETIN...by David Link.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Joyce Fulford

LOOKING AHEAD

MON. DEC. 6 6:30 Girl Scouts.

THURS. DEC. 9 – 6:30- 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364.

SUN. DEC. 12– 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal.

SUN. DEC. 12 – 10:30 AM Worship – 3rd Sunday of Advent

MON. DEC. 13 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Simply take an ornament from the Advent Tree in the Narthex. Make your check payable to Blue Church and deposit in the offering plate or mail to the church.

There are Advent Calendars and Advent Booklets available in the Narthex. You are welcome to take one.

The Sheets to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins, the Sanctuary Candle, and the monthly Communion Wine for 2022 are on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Please make sure to sign the appropriate chart.

HELP BLUE CHURCH BY SHOPPING AT [AmazonSmile](#). Each time you do Amazon will donate 0.5% of the amount of the purchase. Each Quarter Blue Church will then receive a check. Before shopping simply select **ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH** Location: **Coopersburg, PA** as your charitable choice to receive your donation.

LESSONS

Malach 3:1-4 – 1st Lesson

³See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.* ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 1:3-11 – 2nd Lesson

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,* for all of you share in God's grace* with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and

more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6 - Gospel

³In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler* of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler* of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler* of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ Second Sunday of Advent ✕
December 5, 2021

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, responding,

"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Irene, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Stephen, and everyone who has asked

for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.