

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Second Sunday in Lent ✕ February 28, 2021

PRELUDE – “WALKING WITH THE SAVIOR” – RICHARD BLAKE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✕ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✕ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

HYMN #319 “O LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS”

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling 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...O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

PSALM 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING:

ROMANS 4:13-25

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 8:31-38

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #335 "JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS"

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

EUCHARISTIC 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**

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...God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

HYMN #873 "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART"

DISMISSAL

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

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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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR.....

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT.....*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16: As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

ROMANS 4:13:25: Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

MARK 8:31-38: After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Lillian Frey, Ann Greensweig, Shirley Hildebrand, Walt Lehr, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat, the family and friends of Hattie Elizabeth Smith (Edie Knappenberger's mother)

Other concerns: Kevin Jones, deployment; Todd and Dottie.
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
GREETERS Ron & Carol Stoudt
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Paula Clark

SPONSOR CHARTS...There are still many open dates on the charts to sponsor the weekly gifts to the church – Bulletins, Sanctuary Lamp Candle, Wine & Bread, etc. Your

sponsorship helps defray the costs of these items. Simply sign the chart and a payment envelope will be sent to you the week of your sponsorship.

If you have an email address, please notify the church office so it can be added to the group list and you can be included when church information is sent out.

LOOKING AHEAD

MONDAY, MAR. 1 – 7 – 8 PM Girl Scouts Mtg.

SUNDAY, MAR. 7 – 10:30 AM 3RD Sunday in Lent.

THURSDAY, MAR. 11 – 6:30 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364 Mtg.

SUNDAY, MAR. 14 – 10:30 AM 3RD SUNDAY IN Lent/Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

PRAYER OF THE DAY...Strengthen us to take up our cross and follow you. *(Mark 8:34)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK...O God, you give your people power to hope for that which is unseen. Strengthen us so that we may follow your Son with courage and humility. Amen.

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats to help those who can use them. The coats can be dropped in the bin in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have already donated coats.

BLUE CHURCH NOTES

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- Masks must be worn at all times properly covering one's nose and mouth.
- There will be no formal collection of offering or passing of the peace. Receptacles will be provided in the narthex area for worshippers to deposit their offering envelopes (which may also be mailed in to the church office).
- In order to provide a sanitary and safe Holy Communion experience we are using pre-filled Communion chalices.
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PLEASE NOTE – *If you would like to help defray the extra expense of the Communion cups you can use your Communion envelope in your box of offering envelopes or a plain envelope marked "Communion" with your name.*

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER CHECK ON WFMZ FOR CHURCH CLOSING.

UPDATE ON BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY

We are still collecting detergent for the Pantry. There is an increased demand and they are requesting 100 bottles for our month, which is September. We still have 6 months to collect and we have 18 so far.

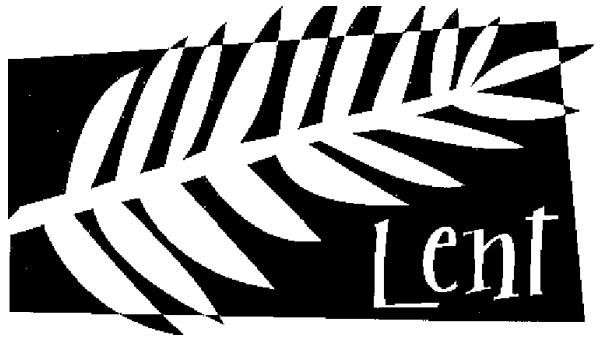
They can be left at the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. They can also be placed in the Narthex.

In addition, the most needed items at the Pantry right now are:

- Meat helpers (especially tuna helper)
- Toilet Paper
- Non-sugar cereals
- Canned Pasta
- Tooth Brushes
- Deodorant
- Body wash

You are always welcome to bring these items to church, or if it is more convenient, they can be brought directly to the Pantry on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 AM. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

We also have a need for someone to organize donations of furniture/appliances. This only involves phone calls/emails – no physical pick up or delivery. We receive calls to donate these things sometimes and there is always someone who needs that item. We just need someone to make the connections of giver to receiver.



LESSONS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 – 1st Lesson

17When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty;* walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram,* but your name shall be Abraham;* for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring* after you.

15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4:13-25 – 2nd Lesson

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already* as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith* 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38 - Gospel

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you

are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,* will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words* in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ Second Sunday in Lent ✠
February 28, 2021

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to micro-organisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Lillian, Ann, Shirley, Walt, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Kevin, Todd, Dottie, the family and friends of Hattie Elizabeth Smith, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.