

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Baptism of Our Lord ✦ January 9, 2022

PRELUDE – "BY STILL WATERS" – E.K. HEYSER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✦ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our LORD in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #311 HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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:

ISAIAH 43:1-7

PSALM 29 *Spoken Responsively*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

**³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory
thunders;**

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

**⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

**⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.**

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

**⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the
forests bare.**

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

**¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

SECOND LESSON:

ACTS 8:14-17

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM — “FAIREST LORD JESUS” — DAVE WILLIAMSON

HYMN #455 *CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION*

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

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**

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
**in the waters of the Jordan your Son was Baptized by John and
anointed with the Holy Spirit. We, your baptized people and
kingdom of priests, offer you these gifts in praise of Him who
takes away our sin, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over
you, and who calls you by name ✠ bless your going out and your
coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #304 *CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED*

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — “MARCH MINIATURE” — HARRY VIBBARD

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD: *Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters...the rivers...fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

ISAIAH 43:1-7: Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

ACTS 8:14-17: Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22: The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus. God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: Do not fear, I have redeemed you.
(Isaiah 43:1)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God our creator, you have brought us to life in the waters of baptism. Let us hear your Spirit’s voice who says: You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Marie Berghold, Cyndi Cline, Sandra Denora, Irene Frederick, Gwen Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Anita Johnson, Frank Kelly, Glenn Weil, Larry Wempe, Kathy Zeby, 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	Karen Kelly
LECTOR	Karen Kelly
GREETERS	Ron & Carol Stouidt
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Amy Ortwein

LOOKING AHEAD

MON. JAN. 10 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

**SUN. JAN. 16 – 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal/
10:30 AM Worship**

**SUN. JAN. 23 – 10:30 AM – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING. Please plan to attend.**

Our annual Valentine card party is almost upon us! There are only 2 packets left, with 10 cards in each packet, that are available for you to sign-out and take home and sign the Valentine cards, for the residents of Valley Manor Nursing Home, here in Coopersburg. Suggestion: Enlist the help of spouses, grandchildren and children! It’s okay if the (grand) children want to draw a picture too! Please return your signed packet(s) of cards, in the packet that you received it in and place it in the basket in the Narthex, no later than Sunday, January 30, 2022. Thank you. Christian Action Team

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important part of the life of Blue Church. Speak to Pastor Jim, Ron Fried, Deb Stover, or any other Council members.

PLEASE NOTE: The reports to be included in the Annual Congregational Report should be in the church office no later than January 16th. They can also be emailed at bluechch@ptd.net.

LESSONS

Isaiah 43:1-7 – 1st Lesson

43 But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with
you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm
you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia* and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Acts 8:14-17 – 2nd Lesson

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come* upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John* laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 - Gospel

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,* 16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with* the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved;* with you I am well pleased.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✘ Baptism of Our Lord ✘
January 9, 2022

A: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made, responding,
"hear our prayer."

A brief silence

A: By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

A brief silence

A: You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

A: Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

A: You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Irene, Gwen, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Larry, Stephen, Glenn, Kathy, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

A: We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

A: You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,
"hear our prayer."

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; though Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.