

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Second Sunday after Epiphany ✠ January 17, 2021

PRELUDE – "TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS" – TODD KENDALL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #677

"THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Thanks be to you, LORD Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 (11-20)

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:43-51

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #574 *HERE I AM LORD*

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

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.**

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your
very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this
banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God the creator strengthens you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the
Holy Spirit the comforter ✕ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #798 *WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “THE VOICE OF GOD” – JANET RAND

✕ ✕ ✕

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Fortress, license #15175-L. All rights reserved. Psalm 139, reprinted from *Psalter for Worship Year B*
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permission.

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: EPIPHANY 2

*All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just the clergy but
also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays
with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes
from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather
whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called
the place of his vision “the house of God, and...the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17).
Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

1 Samuel 3:1-20: At a time when visions are rare and unexpected,
the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though
just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught
him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel’s prophetic ministry.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20: Paul is helping the Corinthians understand
that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ.
Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human

sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

John 1:43-51: In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANTUARY CANDLE AND WINE FOR 2021 ARE NOW ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX. Please check the appropriate charts.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Bill Exner, Maggie Fried, Ron Fried, Shirley Hildebrand, Jerry Smith, Hattie Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat, Dean Stover, Steve

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.

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD... ALTAR FLOWERS... in honor of Anne Nichols' Birthday by Margaret Leibl.

COMMUNION BREAD... by Warren and Lois Adams.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT	The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER	Ron Fried
LECTOR	Maggie Fried
GREETERS	John & Marcy Sumoski
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	Deb Stover

PLEASE NOTE – The annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 24, 2021. The Budget Meeting will take place at 10:00 AM with Worship at 10:30 AM. All other Committee Reports will be reviewed and voted on immediately following Worship.

Please have all Committee Reports, etc. in the Church office by today January 17th so they can be included in the report.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, JAN. 24 – Annual Congregational Meeting.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7 – 10:30 AM Worship/Scout Sunday.

THE ANNUAL COAT DRIVE - Blue Church is collecting gently used coats for the winter season to help those who can use them. You can bring in coats and drop them in the bin in the narthex. Many thanks to all 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.

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING DETERGENT DONATIONS FOR BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY.

They can be left at the side entrance to the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

LESSONS

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) – 1 Lesson

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!*' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to

end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,* and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.'

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' ¹⁷Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 – 2nd Lesson

12 'All things are lawful for me', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me', but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,* and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one

body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.'¹⁷ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.¹⁸ Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself.¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple* of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?²⁰ For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

John 1:43-51 - Gospel

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!'⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.'⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you,* you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✘ Baptism of Our Lord ✘
January 17, 2021

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need responding,

"Have mercy, O God."

A brief silence

A: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

"Have mercy, O God."

A brief silence

A: For the well-being of creation for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

"Have mercy, O God."

A: For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

"Have mercy, O God."

A: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, that God console all who suffer. Today we pray especially for: Bill, Maggie, Ron, Shirley, Jerry, Hattie, Bob, Sue, Dean, Kevin, Steve, Todd, Dottie, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Let us pray.

"Have mercy, O God."

A: For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from Blue Church, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

"Have mercy, O God."

A: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

“Have mercy, O God.”

Pastor: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
