

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Second Sunday of Christmas ✠ January 2, 2022

**PRELUDE — “HOW BRIGHT SHINES THE MORNING STAR”
— JOHANN CHRISTIAN BACH**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen**

In Christ we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

I bring you good news of joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #302 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

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...Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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:

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

PSALM 147:12-20

Spoken responsively

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;

praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders; and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 1: (1-9) 10-18

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #299 COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY

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.

John 1:1-18: John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

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	Maggie Fried
LECTOR	Maggie Fried
GREETERS	Roger & Gloria Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP	John Sumoski

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
SANCTUARY LAMP...** by Bill and Kathy Exner in memory of Loved Ones.

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...

LOOKING AHEAD

TUES. JAN. 6 – Epiphany of Our Lord.

SUN. JAN. 9 – 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship – Baptism of Our Lord.

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

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

TODAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY FOR THE ELCA Good Gifts program. You can still take an ornament from the Tree in the Narthex. Make your check payable to Blue Church and deposit in the offering plate or mail to the church. Thank You to all who have already responded.

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.

ONE OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY IS IN NEED OF URGENT REPAIR. More information will be forthcoming in this necessary project.

AFTER NEW YEAR A WORK PARTY WILL BE SCHEDULED TO POLISH THE BRASS IN THE CHURCH.

Dates and times will be announced.

About Thrivent's Fundraiser

Update 12/26/2021: Your generosity is inspiring! We are excited to announce that we've increased the match to \$250,000! Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete. Please help by making a donation. For every \$2 donation, Thrivent will boost it by \$1!* And, Thrivent pays all the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help those in need. Thank you for your generosity. Thrivent will provide a \$1 match for every \$2 donated through this online disaster response campaign up to a maximum match of \$250,000 or February 15, 2022, whichever comes first. Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform.

In Support Of

Lutheran Disaster Response

LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:7-14 -1 Lesson

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the
earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations* I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong
for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height
of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of
the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the
dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for
sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my
bounty, says the LORD.

Ephesians 1:3-14 – 2nd Lesson

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with
every spiritual blessing in the heavenly
places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ* before the
foundation of the world to be holy and blameless
before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption
as his children through Jesus Christ, according to
the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his
glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in
the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through
his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he
lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he

has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,* having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this* is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:(1-9) 10-18 - Gospel

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,* and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify

to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own,* and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,* full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,* who is close to the Father's heart,* who has made him known.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✘ Second Sunday of Christmas ✘
January 2, 2022

A: Joining our voices with the song of the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

“receive our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

A: Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

A: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all 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. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

A: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in Blue Church or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

A: We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

“receive our prayer.”

Pastor: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
