

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 11, 2021

PRELUDE – “Morning Hymn” – Gordon Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

God our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN #697 JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH ME

GREETING

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also, that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

AMOS 7:7-15

PSALM 85:8-13 *Spoken responsively*

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND LESSON:

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 6:14-29

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #812

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

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

Response: hear our prayer.

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,

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...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this
meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In
your name we pray. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with
us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #645 CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "AT LENGTH THERE DAWNS THE GLORIOUS DAY" JAMES MANSFIELD

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR...THE 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

AMOS 7:7-15: *Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.*

EPHESIANS 1:3-14: *In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

MARK 6:14-29: As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel salvation.

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 6: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:3*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God our Father, you reveal your love for us in Christ Jesus. Take away our apathy and give us grace to serve those in need. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Stephen.

Other concerns: The family and friends of Dr. Roger Fischer
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 | |
| LECTOR | |
| GREETERS | Greg & Wendy Storat |
| CHURCH COUNCIL REP | Deb Stover |

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
MONTHLY COMMUNION WINE SPONSOR...**by Warren and Lois Adams.

PLEASE PASS IT ON...Pastor Jim is now available to make home visits for those wishing Holy Communion. He has had both his shots but the proper Covid precautions will still be needed (mask wearing). Please call the church office (610-965-9500) to set up an appointment for the visit. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

LOOKING AHEAD

JULY 18 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.
The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.

BETTY LOU'S PANTRY UPDATE...Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans

Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

So Le Hi Kid Care in Coopersburg is seeking reliable and flexible individuals who have experience with children for year round permanent part time positions.

Lead teacher position for the kindergarten enrichment program and before/after school positions are available. The lead teacher position requires an Associate's degree. The before/after school position requires a high school diploma.

Please contact Linda Kolumber for more information. 610-282-2373 or

solehikidcare@gmail.com

HAPPENING THIS WEEK.....

JULY 11 – BENEDICT OF NURSIA, ABBOT OF MONTE CASSINO, DIED AROUND 540

Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries he wrote that his intent in drawing up his regulations was "to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. Benedict encourages a generous spirit of hospitality, saying that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself.

LESSONS

Amos 7:7-15 – 1st Lesson

7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land." '

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am^{*} no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am^{*} a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

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.

Mark 6:14-29 - Gospel

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus'* name had become known. Some were* saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason, these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod* had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed;* and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his

daughter Herodias* came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's* head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ 7th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
July 11, 2021

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer,
responding,

"Hear our prayer."

A brief silence

A: Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Peter, Carl, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, the family and friends of Dr. Roger Fischer, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: God of love, we pray for Blue Church and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodian and maintenance workers, for our office staff, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

A: We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith. We remember those in this community who have recently died. United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy,

"Hear our prayer."

Pastor: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. Amen.