

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**The Third Sunday after Pentecost – June 13, 2021**

**PRELUDE – “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

## 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 #635 “WE WALK BY FAITH”**

### 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...O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON:**

**EZEKIEL 17:22-24**

**PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15** *Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

**SECOND LESSON:**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**MARK 4:26-34**

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**HYMN #451**

**“WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS”**

## 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

## 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 #669 "RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD"

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE — "SICILIANA" —

✠ ✠ ✠

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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

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## THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

*The mustard seed becomes a shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

**EZEKIEL 17:22-24:** *Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17:** *Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

**MARK 4:26-34:** *Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

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**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Make us a new creation. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Saving LORD, you died for all so that we might live for all. Plant your kingdom's power within us so that our lives may yield a fruitful harvest. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Peter Link, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, 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.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

<b>CELEBRANT</b>	The Rev. James Hammond
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Dr. Jennifer Dodd
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>LECTOR</b>	Maggie Fried
<b>GREETERS</b>	John & Marcy Sumoski
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b>	Roger Knappenberger

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**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.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

<p><b>MON. JUNE 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.</b> <b>JUNE 20 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.</b> <b>The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.</b></p>
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**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)

Also, they are looking for someone to take over managing the database of patrons, volunteers, church dates, etc., and reporting weekly numbers to Second Harvest. Excel is currently used.

Also looking for someone to take over coordinating the volunteers for the two distributions. This requires use of emails and texts. If anyone is interested, please contact Chris Page (or talk to Deb Stover - 484-437-3831) for more information.

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**STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 13, 2021** "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." – 2 Corinthians 5:17

As we emerge from our Covid cocoons, we are all new creations, changed in a variety of ways. In addition to renewing existing relationships, we can look for new ones that will help us deepen our faith walk, challenge our biases and prejudices, and love our neighbor.

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## LESSONS

### **Ezekiel 17:22-24 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

Thus says the Lord GOD:  
I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.  
On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear  
fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.  
All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.  
I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-10(11-13) 14-17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; <sup>\*</sup> even though we

once knew Christ from a human point of view,\* we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

### **Mark 4:26-34 - Gospel**

26 He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

30 He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✠ 3rd Sunday after Pentecost ✠**  
**June 13, 2021**

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

**"Hear our prayer."**

*A brief silence*

A: Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**"Hear our prayer."**

A: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

**"Hear our prayer."**

A: Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**"Hear our prayer."**

A: Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Peter, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**"Hear our prayer."**

A: Sovereign God, Blue Church belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate

to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**“Hear our prayer.”**

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**“Hear our prayer.”**

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