

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Fifth Sunday in Lent ✠ March 21, 2021

PRELUDE – "LENTEN REFLECTION" – LANI SMITH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✠ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

HYMN #379 "NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES"

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling 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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

PSALM 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;**

so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING:

HEBREWS 5:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 12:20-33

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN #330 "SEED THAT IN EARTH IS DYING"

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

EUCHARISTIC 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

Let us pray...God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

HYMN #772 "OH, THAT THE LORD WOULD GUIDE MY WAYS"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

☩ ☩ ☩

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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

THIS DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR.....

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT..... *God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.:*

ABOUT THE READINGS...

JEREMIAH 31:31-34: The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

HEBREWS 5:5-10: Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

JOHN 12:20-33: Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus’ words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ron Fried, Ann Greensweig, Walt Lehr, Ken Ortwein, Candace Robinson, Jerry Smith, Bob Storat, Sue Storat

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 Ron Fried
LECTOR Maggie Fried
GREETER Maggie Fried
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Roger Knappenberger

SPONSOR CHARTS... There are still many open dates on the charts to sponsor the weekly gifts to the church – Bulletins, Sanctuary Lamp Candle, Wine & Bread, etc. Your sponsorship helps defray the costs of these items. Simply sign the chart and a payment envelope will be sent to you the week of your sponsorship.

If you have an email address, please notify the church office so it can be added to the group list and you can be included when church information is sent out.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, MAR. 28 – 10:30 AM WORSHIP - PALM SUNDAY.

PLEASE NOTE: NO MAUNDY THURSDAY OR GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP THIS YEAR.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 – 10:30 AM WORSHIP – EASTER SUNDAY.

PRAYER OF THE DAY... Jesus, lifted up on the cross, draw your people to salvation. *(John 12:32)*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK... God our redeemer, your Son came to transform the darkness of human evil into light. By the power of his cross and resurrection, strengthen us in our struggle against injustice and transform us into a merciful people. Amen.

UPDATE ON BETTY LOU’S FOOD PANTRY

We are still collecting detergent for the Pantry. There is an increased demand and they are requesting 100 bottles for our month, which is September. They can be left at the church (red door) and someone will put them inside. They can also be placed in the Narthex.

In addition, the most needed items at the Pantry right now are:

- Meat helpers (especially tuna helper)
- Toilet Paper
- Canned Pasta
- Deodorant
- Non-sugar cereals
- Tooth Brushes
- Body Wash

You are always welcome to bring these items to church, or if it is more convenient, they can be brought directly to the Pantry on Wednesdays from 9 – 10 AM. Thanks again for being so generous with all your donations and volunteering to help those in need in our community!

We also have a need for someone to organize donations of furniture/appliances. This only involves phone calls/emails – no physical pick up or delivery. We receive calls to donate these things sometimes and there is always someone who needs that item. We just need someone to make the connections of giver to receiver.

LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – 1st Lesson

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,* says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 5:5-10 – 2nd Lesson

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you';
6 as he says also in another place,
'You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus* offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he

suffered; 9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

John 12:20-33 - Gospel

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' 30 Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people* to myself.' 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✕ Fifth Sunday in Lent ✕
March 21, 2021

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,
"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body those who are dying, and all who grieve. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ron, Ann, Walt, Ken, Candace, Jerry, Bob, Sue, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower Blue Church in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.