

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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Day of Pentecost – May 23, 2021

**PRELUDE – “Holy, Holy, Holy” – Anna Laura Page
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

P: We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

P: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P: Make us one, risen Christ. Cleans our hearts. Shower us with life.

P: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #397 *LOVING SPIRIT*

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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...Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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:

ACTS 2:1-21

PSALM 104:24-34, 35B

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,**

living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships to and fro,

and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you**

to give them their food in due season.

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;**

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;**

O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;

you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**

I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON:

ROMANS 8:22-27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th & 16th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

The Gospel of the LORD.

JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4B-15

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN #396 *SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS*

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

Response: Your mercy in great.

EUCHARISTIC 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 our Father, may the Spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel continue to work in the world through all who have received this heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #400 *GOD OF TEMPEST, GOD OF WHIRLWIND*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – “JESUS SHALL REIGN” – PRICE

✠ ✠ ✠

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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....DAY OF PENTECOST ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church’s birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Ezekiel’s vision shows the Spirit resurrecting and re-creating not just individuals but a whole people. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal ways, praying in us “with sighs too deep for words” when we do not know how to pray.

ACTS 2:1-21: *Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community hears witness to God’s activity in multiple languages.*

ROMANS 8:22-27: *By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God’s future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.*

JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4b-15: *When speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and described the difference the Spirit would make in their lives and in the world.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST: LORD, send forth your Spirit and we shall live. (See Ezekiel 3:14)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Spirit of God, guide us into your truth so we may receive all that Jesus Christ has promised. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Cliff Benner, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Dr. Roger Fischer, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacatterra, Peter Link, Ken Ortwein, 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.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

CELEBRANT The Rev. James Hammond
ORGANIST Dr. Jennifer Dodd
ASSISTING MINISTER Amy Ortwein
LECTOR Amy Ortwein
GREETER Diane Wirth
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Deb Stover

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD: ALTAR FLOWERS...by Ken & Amy Ortwein in honor of their 34th Wedding Anniversary.

BULLETINS...by Susan Valasek in memory of Loved Ones.

SANCTUARY LAMP...by Dean & Deb Stover in honor of Granddaughter Arya’s 9th Birthday.

COMMUNION WINE & BREAD...by Greg & Wendy Storat

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

SUN. MAY 30 – Last 10:30 AM WORSHIP til September.

– The Holy Trinity.

JUNE 6 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

The Fellowship Hall will be air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.

MON. JUNE 14 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.

THE COAT DRIVE HAS NOW ENDED UNTIL NEXT WINTER.

Thank you for all your donations.

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.

MORE EXCITING NEWS FOR BETTY LOU'S PANTRY...

Upper Saucon Township has approved the YMCA's use of the land which is next to the library where the old bus station used to be. This was the 19th property that was vetted by the Greater Lehigh Valley YMCA and was well worth the wait. The Y is very excited about Betty Lou's Pantry being located within their facility.

The first step will be to complete a very systematic feasibility study that has been used successfully many times in the past. This can take up to 9 months. Assuming the study proves that raising the funds is feasible, the fundraising will begin. This can take up to 3 years but is projected to be more like 18-24 months. The final step is construction which can take up to 2 years. Total time is upwards of 5-6 years.

More information will be posted as things proceed.



LESSONS

Acts 2:1-21 – 1st Lesson

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 8:22-27 – 2nd Reading

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in* hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes* for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes* with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God,* who searches the heart, knows what is the mind

of the Spirit, because the Spirit* intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-14 - Gospel

26 `When the Advocate* comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. 4But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate* will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about* sin and righteousness and judgement: 9about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; 11about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12 `I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ Day of Pentecost ✠
May 23, 2021

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, responding,

"Your mercy is great."

A brief silence

A: Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

"Your mercy is great."

A: God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Today we pray especially for: Clifford, Sandra, Bill, Roger, Ann, Andrea, Peter, Ken, Jerry, Sue, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

A: God of love, fill Blue Church with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

A: God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. Hear us, O God.

“Your mercy is great.”

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.