

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The 20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 10, 2021

PRELUDE – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” – Terry Kirkland ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence for reflection

God our comforter,
like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

HYMN #688 LORD OF LIGHT

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...Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON:

AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15

PSALM 90:12-17 *Spoken responsively*

- ¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.**
¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.
¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**
¹⁶Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.
¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 4:12-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 10:17-31

The Gospel of the LORD.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

ANTHEM “ALL THAT I AM” - DAVID DAS

HYMN #685 TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE

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...Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn
the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into
the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of
your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering
world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN #686 *WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — "GOD, THE ALMIGHTY" — GARY DAVIDSON

✠ ✠ ✠

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without written permission.

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 20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

*The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit
eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone
in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as
judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and
give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we
will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with
the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.*

AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15: *Amos was a herdsman by profession and a
prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern
kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He
warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings
blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

HEBREWS 4:12-16: *We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions
from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus
understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also
experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to
receive divine mercy from Christ.*

MARK 10:17-31: *Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is
most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings
his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but
unforgettable.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 21: Lord, Jesus, give us mercy in time of
need. (*Hebrews 4:16*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Jesus, your grace is sufficient for each
day. Strengthen us to live your gospel in daily life. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann
Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Frank Kelly, Sue Storat, Penny,
Stephen.

Other concerns: The family and friends of Todd Storat.

*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
GREETERS Roger & Edie Knappenberger
CHURCH COUNCIL REP Amy Ortwein

WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Roger & Edie Knappenberger

LOOKING AHEAD

SUN. OCTOBER 10 – 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal. *If you enjoy singing, please join us at this time. New members are always welcome.*

SUN. OCTOBER 10 – 10:30 AM Worship.

MON. OCTOBER 11 - 7 PM – Church Council Meeting.

THURS. OCTOBER 14 – 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cub Pack 364

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

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Canned Pasta Boxed Potatoes

Other things always needed:

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

BLUE CHURCH has reached its goal for laundry detergent for Betty Lou's Pantry. No more is needed at this time but thank you all for your generosity!!

THERE ARE STILL MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY CANDLES, ETC. for the rest of the year. Please check the open dates on the calendars on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex.

THINKING AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR PANTRY FAMILIES.

In view of the still unstable virus spread, we will again forego physical presents and give gift cards so parents can purchase gifts for the children. Donations can be put in the collection plate on Sundays or sent to the church by mail. Please make checks out to BLUE CHURCH so one check can be sent to Betty Lou's Pantry. Just please remember to put in the memo line that your donation is for BLP Christmas gift cards. Please have donations in by November 14th. Thanks for all your help!

AS OF OCTOBER 3RD, THE BLUE CHURCH "GARDEN OF GIVING" HAS RECEIVED \$417.00 IN DONATIONS FROM THE FRESH VEGETABLES. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE GIVEN TO BETTY LOU'S FOOD PANTRY.

Many thanks to John Sumoski and everyone else who helped with this wonderful project.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Oct. 10, 2021 (20th Sunday after Pentecost)

Mark 10:24b, 25 –Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

When he talks about money, Jesus frequently uses words of warning. Why does wealth hinder rich people from entering the Kingdom of God? How are you managing? How can we, as steward-disciples, do better?

LESSONS

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 – 1st Lesson

⁶ Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of
Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no
one to quench it.

⁷ Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰ They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹ Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³ Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a
time; for it is an evil time.

¹⁴ Seek good and not evil,
that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of
hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.

¹⁵ Hate evil and love good, and establish justice
in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God
of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of
Joseph.

Hebrews 4:12-16 – 2nd Lesson

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until
it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is
able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the
heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but
all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one
to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who
has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son
of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we
do not have a high priest who is unable to
sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one
who in every respect has been tested* as we are,
yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the
throne of grace with boldness, so that we may
receive mercy and find grace to help in time of
need.

Mark 10:17-31 - Gospel

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran
up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good
Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal
life?' ¹⁸Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me
good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know
the commandments: "You shall not murder; You
shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You
shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud;
Honor your father and mother." ' ²⁰He said to him,
'Teacher, I have kept all these since my

youth.’²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money* to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is* to enter the kingdom of God!’²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another,* ‘Then who can be saved?’²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

28 Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’²⁹ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,*³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.’³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church
Prayers ✠ 20th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
October 10, 2021

A: Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding,

“hear our prayer.”

A brief silence

A: Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Today we pray especially for: Sandra, Bill, Ann, Ray, Frank, Sue, Stephen, Penny, the family and friends of Todd Storat, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in Blue Church. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

Pastor: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.