

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 12, 2021

PRELUDE – “SUPPLICATION” – Ludwig van Beethoven 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 #834 IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

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

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 116:1-9 *Spoken responsively*

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

SECOND LESSON:

JAMES 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

MARK 8:27-38

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

THE SERMON

HYMN #798

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

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 #733 *GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE – “VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST” – LANI SMITH

✠ ✠ ✠

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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 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of “messiah”) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

ISAIAH 50:4-9a: *The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.*

JAMES 3:1-12: *This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it is to reflect our faith.*

MARK 8:27-38: *This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 16: You are the Christ. (Mark 8:29)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: LORD Jesus Christ, open our ears so that we might hear you speak to us. Amen.

BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR... Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Bob Gibiser, Ann Greensweig, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Beverly Lerch, Candice Robinson, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, 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	Amy Ortwein

**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...** by Wendy and Greg Storat

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS BLUE CHURCH'S MONTH TO STAFF BETTY LOU'S PANTRY. Volunteers are needed for Saturday September 25th. We need 6 people (if possible 2 people who can lift). The time is from 8:30 AM to about 10:30/11 AM. We are still not having patrons come inside, so there is no close contact as before). There is a sign up on the blackboard in Fellowship Hall. Contact Deb Stover at 484-437-3831 if you can help.

BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING is still overflowing with lots of tomatoes. Check it out and take what you can use. Simply give a donation marked "Garden of Giving" and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou's Food Pantry.

The construction on the Church tower has begun. It will take a few weeks to complete.

LOOKING AHEAD

PLEASE NOTE - Beginning September 12, the services will change back to the 10:30 AM Worship time.

SEPTEMBER 19 - 10:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Services will continue in Fellowship Hall through the month of September.

OCTOBER 3 - 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal resumes. If you enjoy singing, please join us at this time. New members are always welcome.

OCTOBER 3 - 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary.

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)

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!

PASTOR JIM AND JANET will be temporarily away from September 13th through September 25th. In case of an emergency needing pastoral care, please contact the church office answering machine (610) 965-9500, or Kathy Exner (610) 965-4020. She will get you in touch with someone on call to address your needs.

LESSONS

Isaiah 50:4-9a – 1ST Lesson

- ⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,*
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the
beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- ⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

James 3:1-12 – 2ND Lesson

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,* for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,* and is itself set on fire by hell.* ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters,* this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig

tree, my brothers and sisters,* yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8:27-38 - Gospel

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' 28 And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' 29 He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.*' 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose

their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,* will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words* in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church
Prayers ✠ 16th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
September 12, 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: Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,
"hear our prayer."

A: Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,
"hear our prayer."

A: Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen

first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for those who are overlooked. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Ann, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Candice, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Forming God, you gather Blue Church together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayers, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

“hear our prayer.”

A: Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. 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.