

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

in the 170^h Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

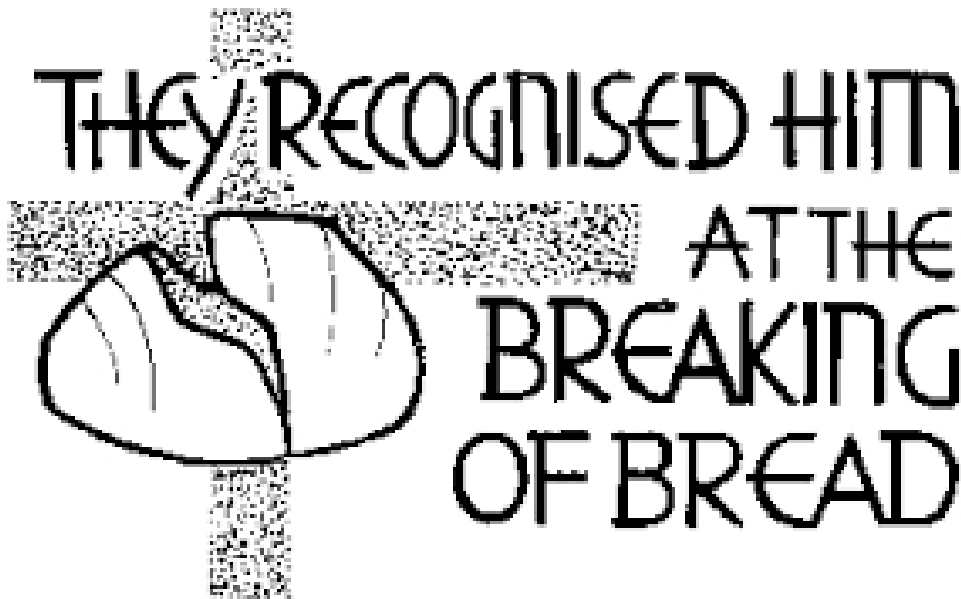
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”



Please be aware:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

P = Pastor C = Congregation

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

PRELUDE *Troisième Livre, Récit* (Louis Marchard 1669-1732)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,

you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.
In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.
Water is poured into the font as the pastor continues.
Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.
Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all people.
Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ, the risen One,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises**

LBW, "Green", 148

***THE GREETING**

P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



☐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



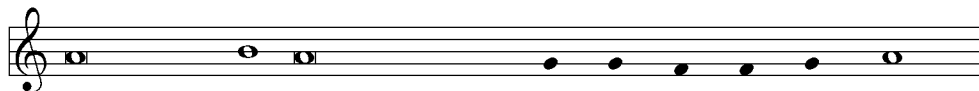
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☐ A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



C Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Acts 2:14a-36-41

14aPeter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 36“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

37Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” 40And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

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

**2for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**

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

4Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”

12How shall I re- | pay the LORD

for all the good things God has | done for me?

**13I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

14I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.

**15Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**

16O LORD, truly I | am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my
bonds.

**17I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD.**

18I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people,

**19in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND READING.....1 Peter 1:17-23

17If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. 18You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

22Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. 23You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.

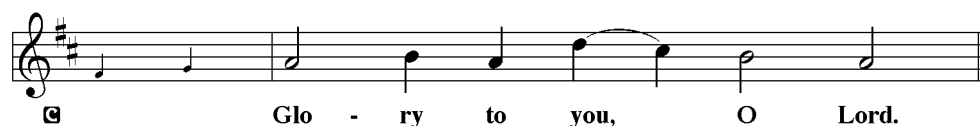
C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 24:13-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter

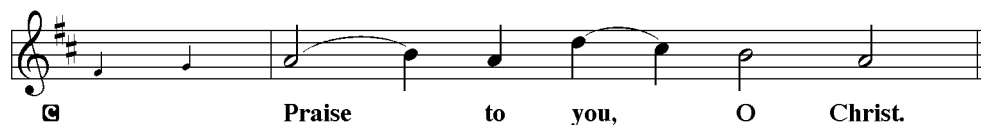


13 Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as

if he were going on. 29But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

WOV, “Blue”, 674

*THE NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

**C 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, "Risen Lord/Hear our prayer."

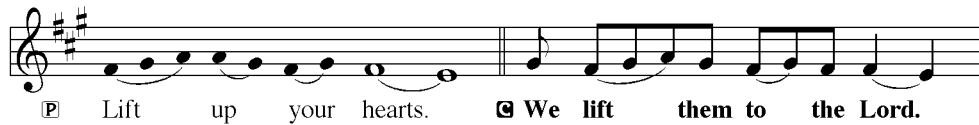
***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

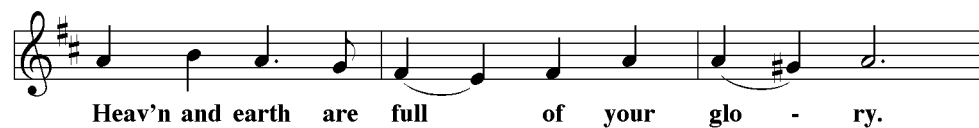
C And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words
and/or gestures of peace.*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your

reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

♩ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty
of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is
yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

*LAMB OF GOD



☪ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *All Are Welcome to Receive.*
Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

All are welcome at our Lord's Table!

P Come and dine with the Risen Christ!

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

WOV, "Blue", 754

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Troisième Livre, Dialogue* (Louis Marchard 1669-1732)

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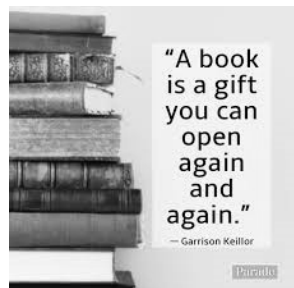
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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie,

Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily "moved some books" from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



Worship Team

April 23, 2023

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Candy Dewar
	10:30 a.m.	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 p.m.	Carl and Audrey Albright
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 p.m.	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	April	Connie Shaible Sally Bjornstad Sarah Young



OUR STEWARDSHIP (April 16, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$2,595.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Easter	35.00
Lent	45.00
Global Mission	10.00
Parish Life	40.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,785.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Honor of Edwin Jackson by Brian Jackson.
 +In Loving Memory of Prudence and William Waldeisen
 and Margaret and Herbert Poff by the family.

Collections in April



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are collecting items to include in bath kits for New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. We have the towels and washcloths. We need bars of soap, travel soap dishes, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, band-aids, and smaller bottles of body lotion.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is also collecting new or gently used shoes (sneakers and casual styles) in all sizes for the men and women residing at the Danville State Hospital.

Containers for both of these projects are in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.



Newsletter

Thank You for submitting your articles on time.

Please remember deadlines so we can get the newsletter out to the members by the first of the month.

Thursday, April 27, is the day for assembling and mailing the "Lion".

Some History of St. Mark and the Lion for Saint Mark's Sunday April 30, 2023



Why does a winged lion represent St Mark?

The winged lion symbol is associated with St. Mark because according to ancient legend, while taking refuge from a storm in the city of Venice, Mark was visited in a dream by an angel in the form of a winged lion.

Winged Lion Symbolism

Aside from being a traditional symbol of Venice, the winged lion meaning also represents wisdom, knowledge and a sword that represents the universal symbol of justice. Although it doesn't have an official or political meaning, the winged lion has a popular and religious origin.

What is the name of the Lion of Saint Mark?

The name of the Lion of Saint Mark in the Venetian language is Leòn de San Marco.

Join us for a discussion of service times on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The Worship and Music Committee invites all members of the congregation to join us for prayerful discussion after the 10:30 service on April 30 concerning the possibility of a single service continuing after Labor Day. We are doing this in response to much discussion at the Congregational Meeting in December.

The committee will have a brief meeting after the discussion. We realize that there are merits to keeping the two services after the single summer services. We also realize that there are merits to having one service.

A document will be available in the Narthex on April 16 and 23. Please fill it out with your comments. The document will basically have room for your comments concerning the advantages and disadvantages of having either the services as we have them now, or having a single service. We will have a method of collecting the responses by April 16.

We realize that this is a divisive situation for many members of the congregation. It's time to make a decision on the question of one or two services by the May meeting of the council. The council will make the ultimate decision per the constitution.

Blessings,
The Worship and Music Committee

*Insert in today's Bulletin
One Service or Two Pros and Cons
Please return it in the basket in the Narthex.*



Monday, April 24 - Sunday, April 30, 2023

Monday, April 24	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir and Orchestra (Nave)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25	Williamsport Music Club	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 27	“The Lion” Put together and Mail out	Morning
Friday, April 28		
Saturday, April 29		
Sunday, April 30	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
	Saint Mark’s Sunday	

BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Comerford	April 28
Ruth Ditchfield	April 29

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, April 24	Little Lambs Meeting Middle Lounge	12:15 p.m.
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If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week at Our Church” please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

COMMEMORATIONS



Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.



Mark, Evangelist

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written. Our congregation, named for the evangelist, will honor his memory and commemorate his ministry next Sunday at both services.



Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Saturday, April 29, 2023

This theologian was the first woman in the medieval church to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church."

Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.