

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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.

C = Congregation P = Pastor

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel reminds us that as Jesus' followers we are to in words and deeds bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

PRELUDE *Trumpet Tune* Henry Purcell

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 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!**

LBW, "Green", 147

***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.



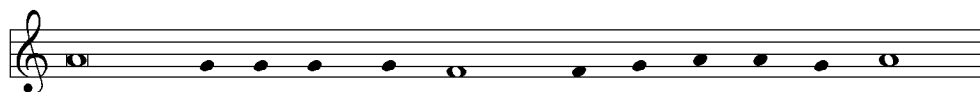
☐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



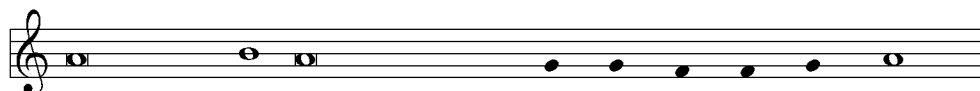
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Acts 7:55-60

55Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” 57But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”
When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

1In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

**2Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver me.**

3Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my
stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

**4Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

5Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

**15My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute
me.**

16Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

THE SECOND READING.....1 Peter 2:2-10

2Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 5like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

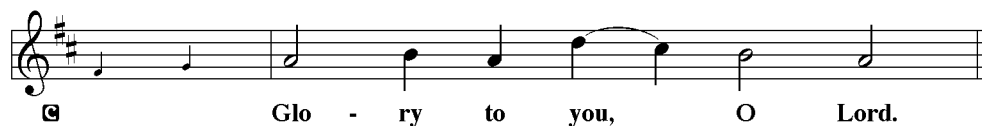
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John 14:1-14

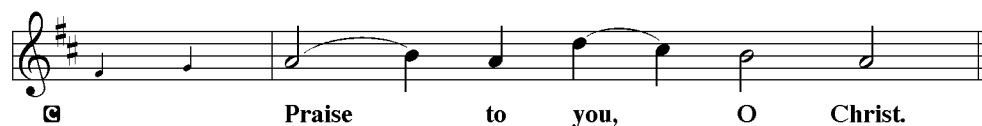


P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

You Are the Way

LBW, “Green”, 464

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we 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**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

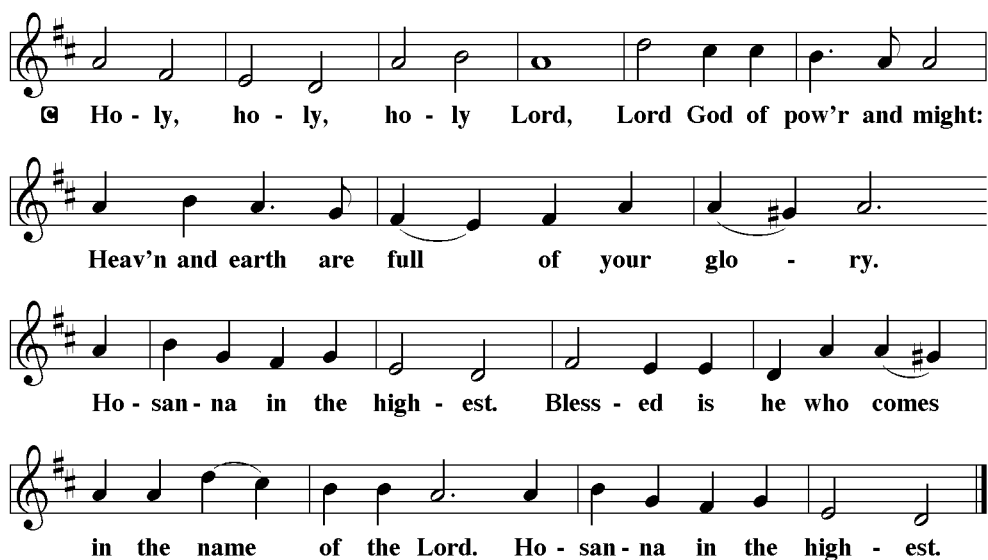


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 ever living 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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

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.

***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



C 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.*

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 The Church's One Foundation LBW, "Green", 369**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Crown Imperial: Coronation March William Walton

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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, Lou Kolb, Roxy Larson.



OUR STEWARDSHIP (April 30, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$2,193.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Easter	25.00
Lent	5.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
Food Pantry	25.00
Global Mission	10.00
Sunday School Offering	4.00
Parish Life	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	30.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Flowers Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Lutheran World Relief	30.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,542.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of our Mother, Carol Smith and In Honor of
 our Mother, Shirley Kinney by Michael and Jackie Kinney.
 +In Loving Memory of Robert O. Miller by Bill Miller, Dick Miller
 and Barb Cooley, by Richard Miller.



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

May 7, 2023

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Vicki Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Matt Fortin - Captain: Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler
Altar Guild	May	Bev Hieber Audrey Albright

WE KNOW HOW BORING SUMMER CAN GET.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

IS HERE TO HELP!

Like you, we think summer vacation should be fresh and fun, filled with new friendships and new experiences.

Camp Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome programs to feed your hunger for adventure.

3 EASY STEPS TO YOUR BEST. SUMMER. EVER.

1. Check out our 2023 Summer Camp brochure and pick your program
2. Register (scholarships are available)
3. Pack your bags and come to camp!

OUR PROMISE TO YOU:

1. You will be safe
2. You will be welcomed
3. You will be loved
4. You will have fun!



Don't suffer another long, boring summer! Come to camp and create friendships, memories, and faith that will last a lifetime!



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

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e-mail: cml@campmountluther.org





PLEASE JOIN US
Saturday, May 27, 2023

Memorial Service for Harold and Joyce Hershberger, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 11 a.m. Reception to follow at the Williamsport Country Club (800 Country Club Drive). All are welcome!

Summer Hospitality!



The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, s'mores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, **summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM. (Summer Schedule starts June 4, 2023)**

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.



Monday, May 8, -
Sunday, May 14, 2023

Monday, May 8	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9		
Wednesday, May 10	NGA Newberry Branch Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 11		
Friday, May 12		
Saturday, May 13		
Sunday, May 14	Holy Communion <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

H. Vincent Bardsley	May 12
Catherine Lundy	May 12
Lori Ann Zimmerer	May 13
Karen Mariano	May 14

ANNIVERSARY

None this week

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None this week

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

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Monday, May 8, 2023

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.



Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303

Monday, May 8, 2023

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.



Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

