

**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 2, 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.

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

C = Congregation P = Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself.

From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: To serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

PRELUDE *Fanfare for the Common Man* Aaron Copland

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel as able.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***HYMN Before You, Lord, We Bow LBW, “Green”,401**

***THE GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



Ⓐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Ⓑ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18

¹Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

²For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.

³“I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

⁴I will establish your | line forever,

and preserve your throne for all | generations.’ ”

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!

They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.

**16They rejoice daily | in your name;
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**

17For you are the glory | of their strength,
and by your favor our might | is exalted.

**18Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;
our king to the Holy | One of Israel.**

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 6:12-23

12Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

20When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

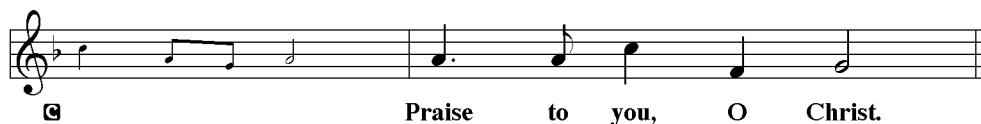
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 10:40-42**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10th chapter



[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”
The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN All Are Welcome (Next Page)**

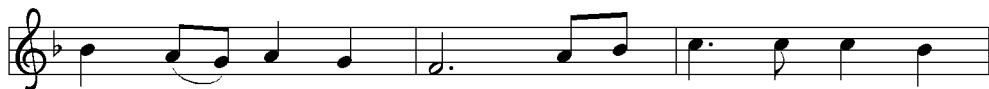
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

C 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, "God in your mercy/Hear our prayer."

***THE PEACE**

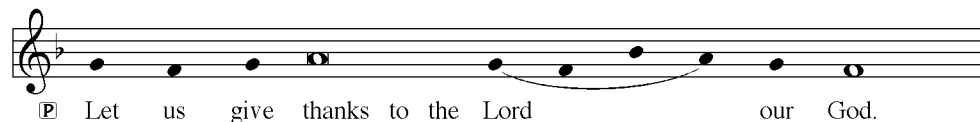
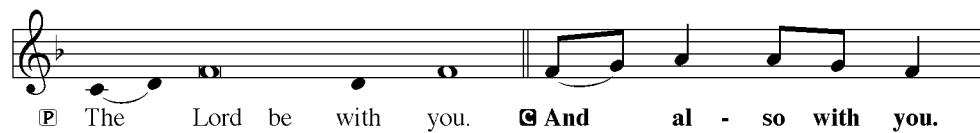
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words.

ANTHEM Battle Hymn of the Republic
Soloist: Ray Huff

*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, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish

but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit,
into our hearts and on these gifts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this his holy supper.

C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord as you have taught us, so now we 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.

***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 All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

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. We thank you, generous God,

for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, †, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN God of Our Fathers**

LBW, “Green”, 567

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the Good News!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Little March

D. Adecci



+ 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.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE

+ 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.

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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, Brittany Frey.



July 2, 2023

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Lector | Mel Wentzel |
| Communion Assistants | Carl and Audrey Albright |
| Organist | Sam Robinson |
| Ushers | Matt Fortin, captain
Glenn Yapple and Bud Doeblner |
| Altar Guild | July
Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel |



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith Formation 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!



OUR STEWARDSHIP June 25, 2023

Regular Offering	\$3,058.00
Easter	20.00
Lent	70.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Food Pantry	25.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	60.00
Synod Benevolence	50.00
July 4 th Celebration	55.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	150.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,493.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of Forrest and Margaret Klinger by their daughter, Donna Baker and family.
 +To the Glory of God and in honor of our nation’s Independence Day and also in honor of Phil Thomas’s 80th birthday on July 4th by his wife, Barb and his family.



Family Promise – Our next hosting is the week of July 9 to July 15. We are providing dinners each night and also food for breakfast and lunches. If you are able to provide a meal or donate money toward purchasing the breakfast and lunch items, please contact Deb Buckman.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Anyone who is willing and able to donate blood here on Friday July 14th between 11:00 and 3:00, please sign up at www.redcrossblood.org (search for St. Mark's) or call Karen Mariano at 570-995-5107. The need is critical!



Celebrate July Fourth at St. Mark's

This July 4th join us on the front lawn at.....

6:00 PM for free snacks, drinks, hot dogs and trinkets.

7:30 PM for music of American movies performed by Sam Robinson in our Nave.

9:30 PM for the best seat in Williamsport for the annual fireworks display.

Bring a friend and a lawn chair.

Come early. Stay late.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE JULY 4th EVENT

Please sign up in the Narthex.



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.**

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!



MOSES

From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, MOSES is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family!

Set adrift as a baby, Moses is an unlikely hero — until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai.

A bus trip to see **Moses** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for **Wednesday, September 20**, the **11:00 AM** show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it!

With only 12 seats left on the bus, the time to sign up for this wonderful experience is now! Payment for this trip will be due by the second week of August. To sign up, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627. We can't wait to hear from you!



Please join us on **Sunday, July 9th** following our worship service, for a church picnic held in Fellowship Hall. This is the best of both worlds as picnic food will be coupled with a bug-free, dry, cool environment! Hotdogs, beverages, and chips will be provided ~ as well as all plates and utensils. **Please bring a dish to share as you are able.**

We would also like to use this time to display any pictures or St. Mark's memorabilia that you may have. It has been noted that many of our members have been coming to St. Mark's for their entire lives (50, 60, 70, 80 years even) and it would be enjoyable for them to share their memories through the years. Tables will be available to display these pieces of St. Mark's history.

If you need a ride, if you have questions, if you have items to display, please be in touch with Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263.

We look forward to sharing time with you on July 9th!

United Churches Food Pantry Needs Our Help



There is no vacation from hunger and no one knows that better than the United Churches Food Pantry. The Pantry is seeing an increase in clients, while funding is being stretched to its limit. We can help. Cereal Sundays will continue on the second Sunday of July and August. But on the other Sundays during the summer, please consider donating an item or two of these most needed non-perishable foods. Donations may be placed in the Narthex.

*Jars of peanut butter and jelly
Pasta of all kinds*

*Cake mixes and cans of frosting
Soup*



Cereal Sunday is July 9, 2023

We are accepting all kinds of cereal in any size. Can we beat last month's total of 35 boxes of cereal?

REMEMBER WHEN

HOBBY EXPO





Monday, July 3, - Sunday, July 9, 2023

Monday, July 3
Tuesday, July 4
Wednesday, July 5
Thursday, July 6
Friday, July 7
Saturday, July 8
Sunday, July 9

Annual July 4th Lawn Party and Organ Concert

Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Grace Arner July 3
Sean Jensen July 3
Breanna Bower June 7

Edward Barone July 3
Phil Thomas July 4

ANNIVERSARY

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No Committee Meetings this week

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

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



Thomas, Apostle

Monday, July 3, 2023

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.



Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake. Hus is considered the founder of the Moravian Church.