

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023**

**“God's Work, Our Hands Sunday”
*in the 170^h Year of the Parish***

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals and the church as a whole should go about restoring relationships when they become strained or severed.

PRELUDE

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 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 the Church 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 \dagger , Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*HYMN Son of God, Eternal Savior

LBW, "Green", 364

*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 people on earth.



♩ Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:



We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.



You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**
I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

**36 Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

37 Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

**38 Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

**40 Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 13:8-14

8Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

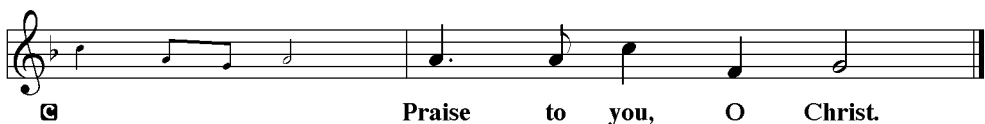
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 18:21-28**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN God's Work, Our Hands (Back Page)**

***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, “Merciful God/Receive our prayer.”

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet each other.


***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. Ⓑ And al - so with you.



Ⓐ Lift up your hearts. Ⓑ We lift them to the Lord.

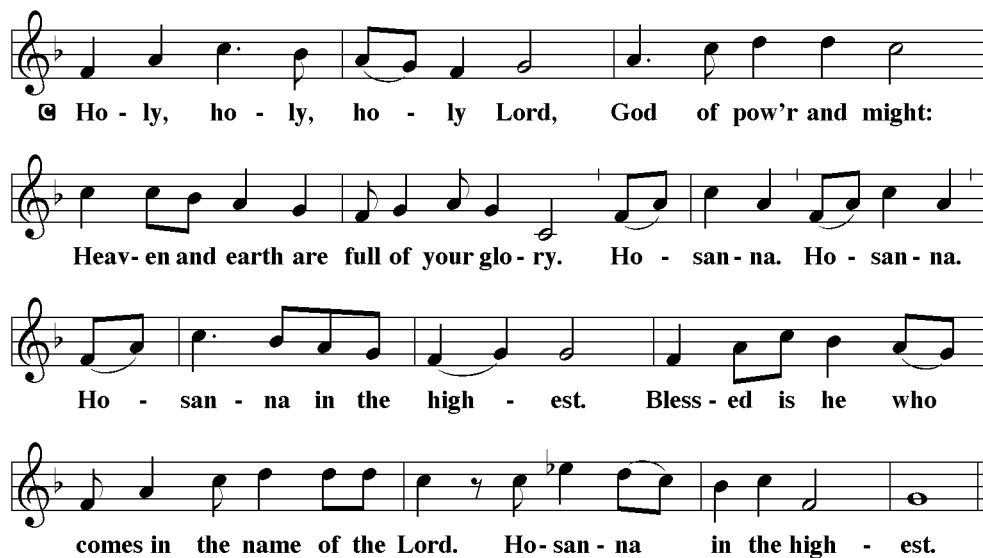


Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓑ 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, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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.

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 Jesus invites you to his table. Come, eat and live.

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. Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus’ name we pray.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

***HYMN** **Go, My Children with My Blessing** **WOV, “Blue”, 721**

***DISMISSAL**

L Go in peace, the Lord is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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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, 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, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Mike Ford.



TODAY WE CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY. “God's Work, Our Hands” is an opportunity to celebrate who are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-- one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Our service project to celebrate in 2023 is

donating to various charities and ministries through the work of the Fall Bazaar.

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!





WORSHIP LEADERS
September 10, 2023

Lector	8:00 AM	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Ralph Zeigler
Communion	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
Assistants	10:30 AM	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Captain - Gary Weber Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	September	Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad, Sarah Young

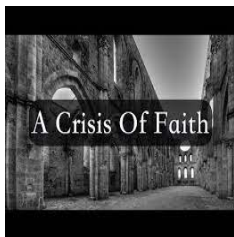


OUR STEWARDSHIP
September 3, 2023

Regular Offering	\$5,411.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	120.00
Synod Benevolence	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,556.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Honor of Stefan's 24th birthday by the Webers.
 +In Loving Memory of Bill and Marion Waldeisen by her family.



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.



Sojourner Truth Ministries

STM continues to serve up to 600 meals per week! These meals are a combination of eat in or take a bagged lunch to go. It has been daunting to keep up with this need. We can help support STM's efforts to feed low income and homeless individuals and families. During September the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is seeking donations of brown paper lunch bags, rolls of plastic wrap and jars of sweet or dill relish. Donations may be placed on the tables in the Narthex closet. Thank you for any help you can provide.



Got Stuff? The Clock Is Ticking.

If you have items that you wish to donate to our Fall Sale, they now can be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please place your items in front of the stage curtains.

Please also be thinking as to when you can help get our sale ready. From September 10-September 16 we will need help. Join the fun and say "yes" to helping. Here is a quick time line.

- Sunday, September 10: Arranging tables and bringing donations from the basement.
- Monday, September 11 - Friday, September 15 from 9:15 - Noon: Unpack and arrange all the treasures. (We can have an evening session for those who work during the day.)
- Friday, September 15: Late day selling to the public from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Selling from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Clean-up starting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the American Rescue Worker's picking up our leftovers.



Looking Ahead / Redeemer's Community Dinner

For Redeemer's dinner on Thursday, September 14, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help. We will be donating boxes of TastyKake cupcakes. We are in need of 20 boxes to be able to provide 120 individual packets to folks receiving a meal. The cupcakes can be any type as long as there are six packets per box. Our local supermarkets offer sales regularly. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.



Monday, September 11, -
Sunday, September 17, 2023

Monday, September 11	Fall Sale Set Up WCC Rehearsal 7PM
Tuesday, September 12	Fall Sale Set Up
Wednesday, September 13	Fall Sale Set Up
Thursday, September 14	Faith Formation Middle Lounge 10:45AM Fall Sale Set Up
Friday, September 15	<i>Fall Sale 4 – 7 PM</i>
Saturday, September 16	<i>Fall Sale 9AM – 1:00 PM</i> <i>Clean Up to follow</i>
Sunday, September 17	Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Carol Harvey	September 11	Timothy Maggs	September 13
Stefan Weber	September 13	Brennan Comerford	September 15

I missed one..... Deb Buckman September 9th Happy Belated Birthday

ANNIVERSARIES

None This Week

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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



John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

John of Antioch was an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.



**HOLY
CROSS
DAY**

Holy Cross Day

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

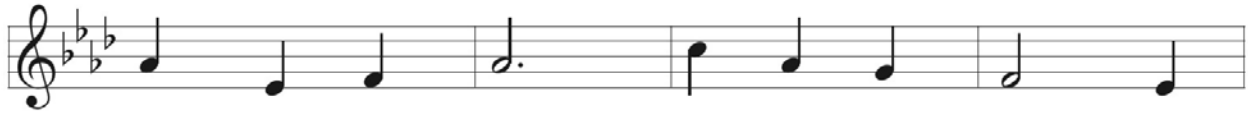


Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

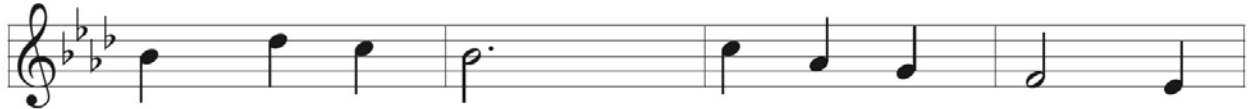
God's Work Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.