

**The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

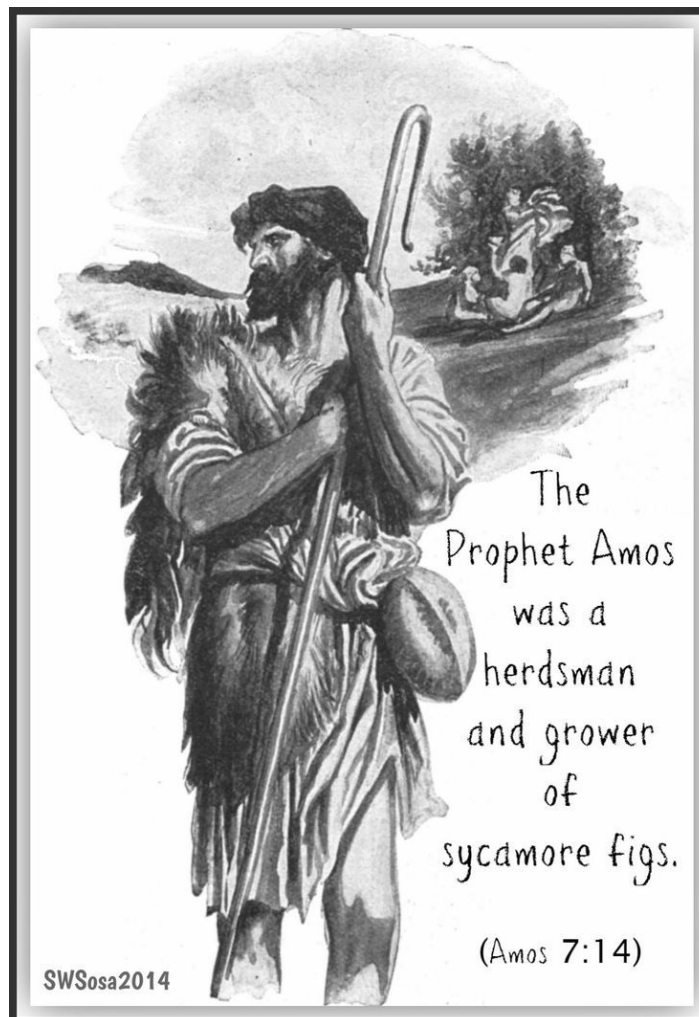
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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."



**An Order for Holy Communion
Setting Two, LBW
8 and 10:30 AM**

Please Note:

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

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in word and sacrament.

PRELUDE *In Green Pastures* Harold Darke

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

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

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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.

Kneel/Stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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 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.

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 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.

Amen.

***HYMN Come, We that Love the Lord**

WOV, "Blue", 742

***THE GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B 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**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.

3Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.

4**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”

5But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



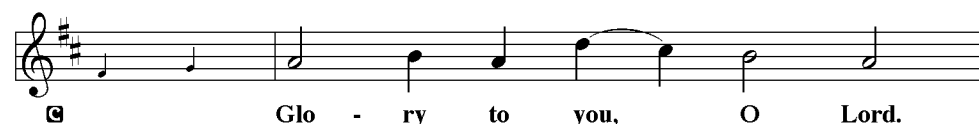
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 25:1-13**

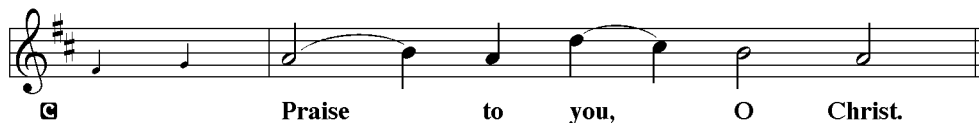
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN Let Justice Flow Like Streams WOV, “Blue”, 763**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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, "Hear us, O God/Your Mercy is Great"

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you. *The ministers and congregation greet each other.*

ANTHEM *God is the Lord of All* George F. Handel

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are as follows:

1. **P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

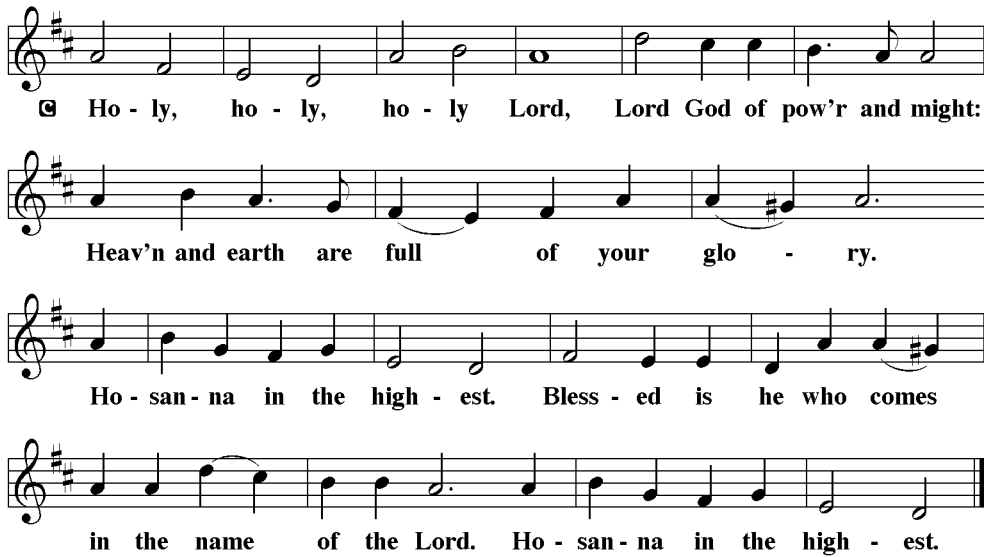
2. **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

3. **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

4. **C** 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 whose 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, 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.

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

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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, 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,
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.*

Come and feast at the Table of Jesus.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***HYMN** **Take My Life, that I May Be**

LBW, “Green”, 406

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Joyous Acclamation Lani Smith

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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, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mike Ford, Ruth-Ann Bigelow.

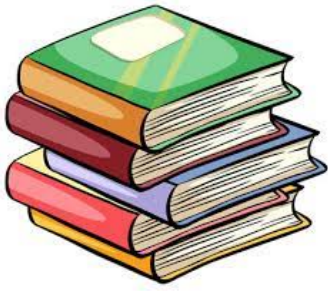


WORSHIP LEADERS

November 12, 2023

Lector	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM	Dan Zeigler and
Carl Albright		
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Gary Weber, captain
		Shelby Weber and Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	November	Deb Buckman & Leah Haussmann





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

November 5, 2023

Regular Offering	\$3,623.00
Plate Offerings	24.00
Thanksgiving	10.00
Food Pantry	5.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,722.00



Annual Stewardship Campaign continues here at Saint Mark’s. Upcoming projects for the new calendar year include: Roof repair, a new sound/video system, updating the air conditioning system in the second floor of the Parish House, organ repair/maintenance, ongoing cleaning expenses, and salaries of our paid staff. If you cannot return your pledge card today, please do so in the near future. In 2024, Christ calls all of us to support the work

of his church through our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

May the faithfulness of all God's saints inspire us to faithfully serve our Lord through St. Mark's in 2024 and beyond.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+In Honor of Charlie and Judy Fortin by Matt and Wanda Fortin and Family.

+In Loving Memory of Harry and Hester Nolan by the family.



FAMILY SUPPORT

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

Operation Christmas Child



Please join us in Fellowship Hall today after the 10:30 service to help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. A light lunch will be served, and a brief presentation will show how meaningful and life-changing these gifts are to the kids who receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies. Plus, packing shoeboxes for others is tons of fun! Many hands make for light work, and all are welcome to participate in this outreach

project.

If there are any questions, please contact Vicki Haussmann at (570)447-3263.

Thanks!



“WE STAND WITH ISRAEL” EVENT

Today, 6PM, New Covenant United Church of Christ, Williamsport. Learn how we as individuals can show solidarity for the nation of Israel and surrounding nations.



Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Billtown Brass

“Kick off the Holidays” concert

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 5:00PM

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA

The concert is part of the weekend’s Victorian Christmas celebration.



ADVENT HOLY HIKE

We know that Advent can be a busy time. We know you need to take a breath and remember what the season is all about. What better way than to join friends and spend time with God in creation? We invite you to join us on an Advent Holy Hike from 2:00- 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Bring your family and friends as we walk the camp trails and share scripture, song, and reflection during this season of preparation for Christ’s coming. We start and end at the Evergreen Center and we’ll have hot chocolate, coffee, tea, and Christmas cookies to warm you up!



Monday, November 13, - Sunday, November 19, 2023

Monday, November 13	Council Meeting	6PM	ML
	WCC Rehearsal	6PM	FH
Wednesday, November 15	Property Committee	6PM	ML
Saturday, November 18	Hometown Hereos	9:00AM	FH
	Billtown Brass Concert	5PM	NAVE
Sunday, November 12	Holy Communion	8:00 AM and 10:30AM	

BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Haussmann	November 13	Donna Baker	November 18
Ronald Baker	November 18		

ANNIVERSARIES

Candace and Stephen Dewar	November 18
Cheryl and David Williams	November 19
Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler, Jr.	November 19

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, November 13	Council Meeting	6PM	ML
Wednesday, November 15	Property Committee	6PM	ML

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

**Elizabeth of Hungary,
renewer of society, died 1231**



Friday, November 17, 2023

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.