

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 31, 2021**

*in the 168th Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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

**PRELUDE**      *Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**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 Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

**HYMN**

*Rise, Shine, You People!*

## Rise, Shine, You People!



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

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## THE GREETING

**P** The grace of our 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*

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** Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

### **THE FIRST LESSON.....Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] 15The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 111**

1Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

**2Great are your works, O LORD,**

**pondered by all who delight in them.**

3Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**4You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

5You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

**6You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

**8They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

9You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

**10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures  
forever.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

1Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; 3but anyone who loves God is known by him.

4Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12But when

you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:21-28**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

21[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
Be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: FREUTEUCH, IHR LIEBEN. Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** Living together in trust and hope we affirm 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**

## **THE PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Let us pray/Have mercy, O God.**

## **OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE BLESSING**

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

**C** Amen.

## O Jesus, King Most Wonderful!



- 1 O Je - sus, king most won - der - ful! O Con-quer-or re - nowned!
- 2 When once you vis - it dark - ened hearts, then truth be-gins to shine,
- 3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low, the fount of life and fire,
- 4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess your name, for - ev - er you a - dore,
- 5 You may our tongues for - ev - er bless; you may we love a - lone



O Source of peace in - ef - fa - ble, in whom all joys are found:  
then earth - ly van - i - ty de - parts, then kin - dles love di - vine.  
sur - pass - ing all the joys we know, all that we can de - sire:  
and, seek - ing you, it - self in - flame to seek you more and more!  
and ev - er in our lives ex - press the im - age of your own!

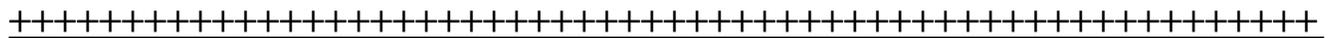
Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.  
Music: HIDING PLACE. J. Leavitt, *Christian Lyre*, 1831

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Here Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn*  
Johann Gottfried (1684-1748)



**Prayer List:** Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Sarah Prevelige, Bunny Ditchfield.

**LEADING US IN WORSHIP**

**LECTOR** Mel Wentzel

**CANTOR/SONG LEADER** Ray Huff

**ORGANIST** Sam Robinson

***Our Stewardship***

(1/13/2021 to 1/26/2021):

Regular Offering	\$4,597
Christmas Offering	\$10
Initial Offering	\$25
World Hunger	\$50
Food Pantry	\$100
Global Mission	\$50
Capital Fund	\$50
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$120
Memorials	\$50
Synod Benevolence	\$10
Souper Bowl	\$50
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,112.00</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**“Super Bowl Sunday” is February 7 and** once again the youth of St. Mark's will be collecting cans of soup to help stock the food pantry of the United Churches of Lycoming County. Our famous “Football Tub” will be in the Front Lounge ready to accept cans of soup (and/or any canned goods). These items may be dropped off during

Church Office Hours (please call the church office, 570-323-4619 for times). If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made to support the many ministries of Shepherd of the Streets (please note "Souper Bowl of Caring" on the memo line).

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday over 30 years ago: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. Amen".

Together, let us help fight hunger in Williamsport! Thank You!

**Camp Mt. Luther** is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from the Church Office (570-323-4619).

**Flower Tributes:** Although we do not have flowers while in-person worship is suspended, we can still have "Flower Tributes". The tributes and sponsors from the "Altar Flower Book" will be honored and printed in the bulletin. A donation of \$10.00 is recommended. If you do not have a date scheduled for altar flowers but would like to participate, please contact Sally Bjornstad (570-494-6637).

**By action of our Congregational Council, all in-person worship services including Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Mid-week Lenten Services have been suspended until further notice. Virtual worship by way of video will continue to be offered through our web page and Facebook. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office.**

## UPCOMING COMEMORATIONS

### **Presentation of Our Lord**

*Tuesday, February 2, 2021*

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865**

*Wednesday, February 3, 2021*

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

## **The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

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