



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

An Order for Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Voluntary in C, Adagio

John Alcock (1715-1806)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

P We thank you, risen Christ,

for these waters where you make us new,

leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth,

like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

**Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.**

**Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.**

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Tune: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN
Text © Oxford University Press

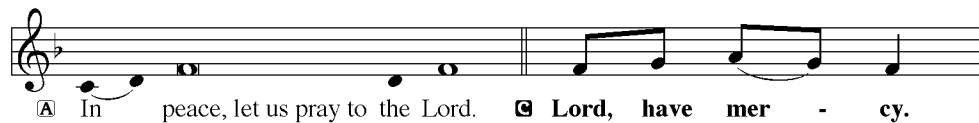
***GREETING**

P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of

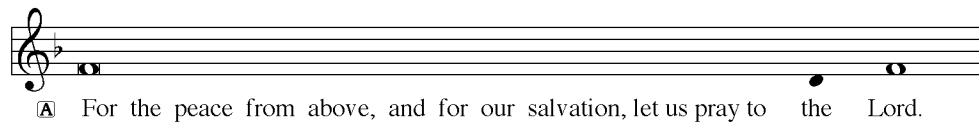
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***KYRIE**



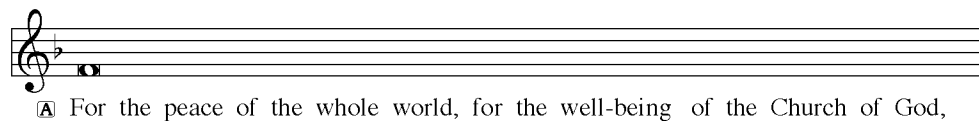
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



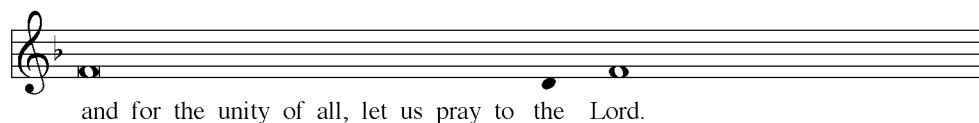
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



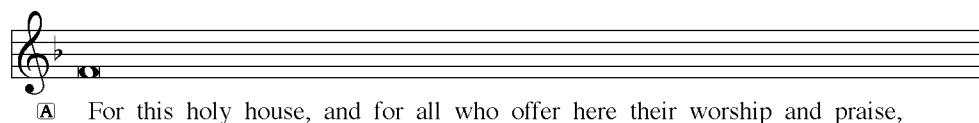
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



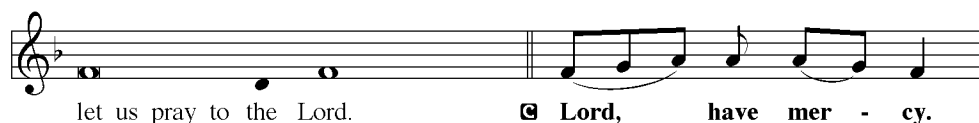
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



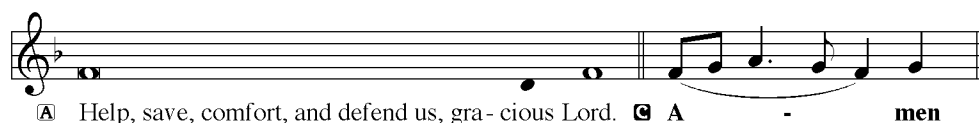
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

*** THIS IS
THE FEAST**



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



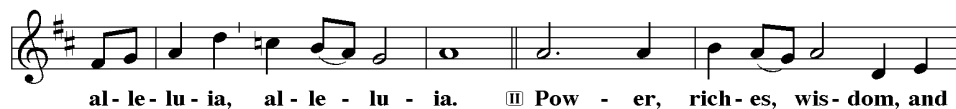
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, 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. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, 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. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Acts 4:5-12

5The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, 10let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. 11This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

12There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

1The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

**2The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

**4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear
no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me.**

5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 John 3:16-24

16We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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.....John10:11-18

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm 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: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***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, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

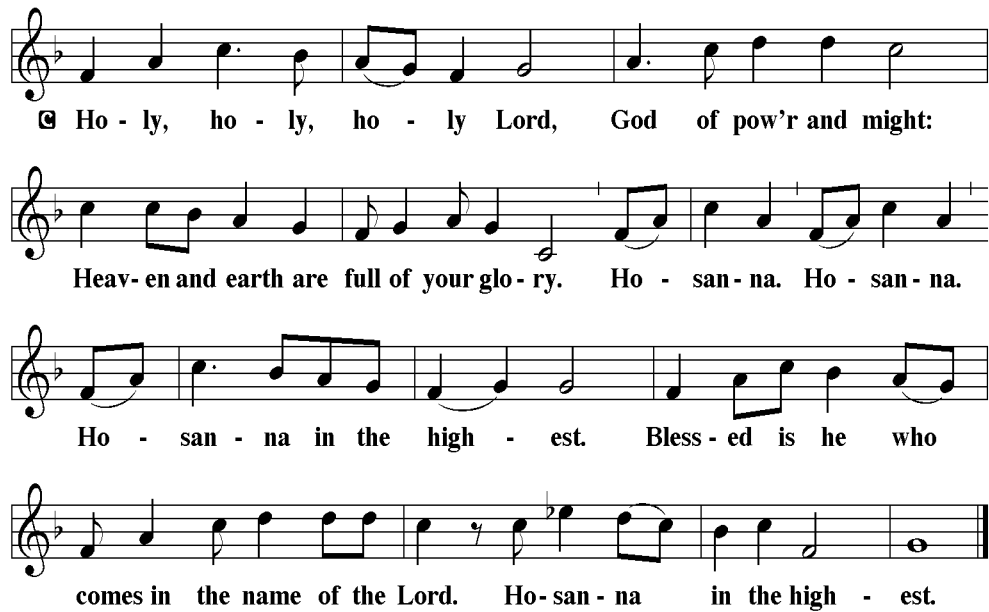
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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 everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; 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, 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.

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**

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Come, eat and be satisfied.

C Amen

THE COMMUNION

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Wellspring of joy,

through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.

Satisfy the hunger still around us,

and send us as joyful witnesses,

that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

*HYMN Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.**

**We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.**

Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
Tune: BRADBURY

*DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in C, Vivace* John Alcock (1715-1806)

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, 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, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am Vicki Haussmann/10:30 am Linda Rosini
CANTOR/SONG LEADER Deb Buckman (10:30 am)
ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: April 25

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Mike Jensen-Captain: Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber, Pam Jensen (side door)

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:

In honor of Edwin Jackson by Brian Jackson

In loving memory of Prudence and William Waldeisen and Margaret and Herbert Poff by Family

Our Stewardship (4/15/-4/18/2021)

Regular Offering	\$4, 549.00
Plate Offering	\$ 20.00
Sunday School	\$ 8.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 4.00
Memorials	\$ 25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4, 606.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday, May 23, 2021 is the Day of Pentecost and this year we look forward to having red geraniums grace our sanctuary. Please use the enclosed envelope to order your plants, enclosing payment at this time. The suggested donation amount is \$5.00 per geranium and deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 9th. Geraniums not picked up after the 10:30 service will be planted around St. Mark's property.

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

WEST BRANCH CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY. The Lutheran Churches in our area that constitute the West Branch Conference Assembly meet today, Sunday, April 25, 2021, at 2 pm via Zoom. Please keep our West Branch Conference in your prayers.

COMEMMORATIONS

Mark, Evangelist

Sunday, April 25, 2021

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest, the most direct, and many scholars think was the first to be written. Mark is "Our Patron" and will be remembered today in our prayers of intercession.

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Thursday, April 29, 2021

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.