

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021
in the 168th 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 Lutheran Church!

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!

An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, "Green Book")

****Please stand as you are able.***

PRELUDE *Largo from Xerxes*

GF Handel (1685-1759)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given 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 unto 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**

All Are Welcome

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: TWO OAKS

***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.

*GLORY TO GOD



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



C 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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as

servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 11:18-20

18It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

19But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

20But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 54

1Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

2Hear my | prayer, O God;
give ear to the words | of my mouth.

3For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my
life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.

4Behold, God | is my helper;

it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.

5Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

**6I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.**

7For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

THE SECOND LESSON.....James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

4:1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8aDraw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

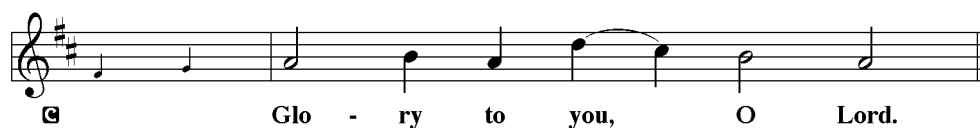
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 9:24-37**

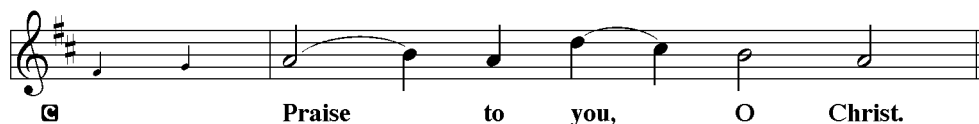
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.



30[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***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**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

After each petition, “Lord, 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, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

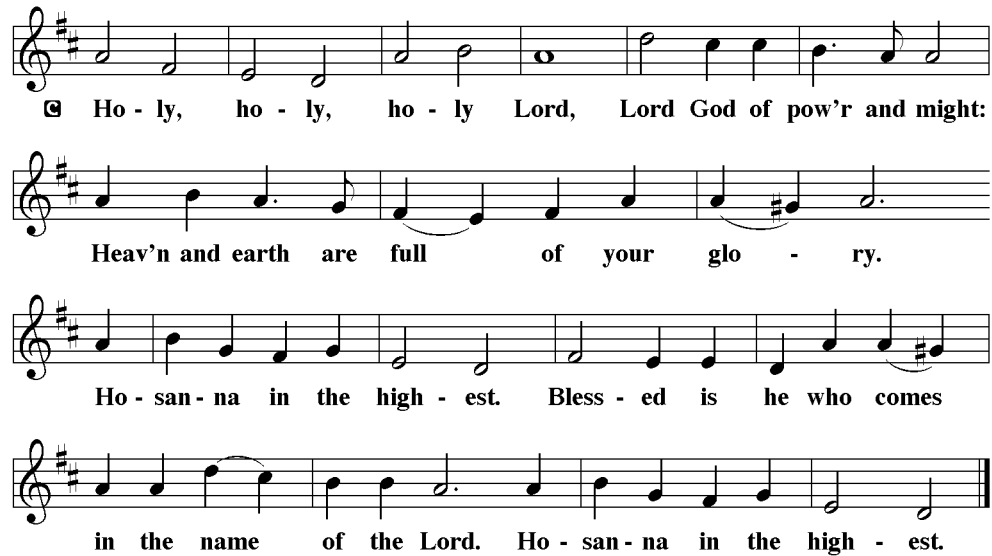


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, 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 in 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.

P 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

***LAMB OF GOD**



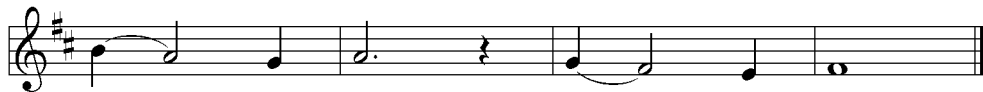
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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**

Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*
- *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.*

Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come!

C **Thanks be to God!**

THE COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

C **Amen**

***THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C **Amen**

***HYMN** **All Depends on Our Possessing (LBW, “Green” 447)**

**All depends on our possessing
God’s free grace and constant blessing,
though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken**

**by their God are not forsaken
and will keep a dauntless heart.**

**God, who hitherto has fed me
and to many joys has led me,
is and ever shall be mine.
He who did so gently school me,
he who daily guides and rules me,
will remain my help divine.**

Text: *Gesang-Buch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.
Tune: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN 887 887

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Allegro Maestoso from Water Music* GF Handel

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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, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou and Linda DeSeau, Jane Larson, the victims and family members of COVID-19, the nation and people of Haiti, the nation and people of Afghanistan, Hurricane Victims, Forest Fire Victims.

WORSHIP LEADERS (September 19)

Lector 8 a.m. Vicki Haussmann

10:30 a.m. Donna Boston

Cantor/Song-leader 10:30 a.m. Ray Huff

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann/ 10:30 a.m. Bud Doebler and
Gary Weber

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS: September 19

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Matt Fortin, Captain. Ushers: Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at worship 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

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6 p.m. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

PET BLESSING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2 p.m. on our “back lawn” next to the parking area. Masks are appreciated but not mandatory. All pets welcome! Please restrain your pet. In the event of inclement weather, the blessing will be cancelled.

GREATER LYCOMING COUNTY CROP WALK IS OCTOBER 10, 1 p.m.! Our team captain is **Brenda Gair (brenda1@comcast.net or 570-321-7561).** Volunteer to be a walker or sponsor!

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship 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

Regular Offering	\$3,939.00
Plate Offering	\$ 20.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 215.00
Food Pantry	\$ 30.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 100.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 15.00
Capital Fund	\$ 10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 80.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 50.00
Grand Total	\$4,509.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

- + In loving memory of Luella Bair's birthday by her children.
- + In celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

BULLETIN SPONSOR- Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

COMMEMORATIONS

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Monday, September 20, 2021

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for

assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.