



**The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 24, 2021**

In the 168th Year of the Parish

A Hymn Setting of the Eucharist for Christmastide

Ten O'Clock in the Evening

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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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!

A guide to hymnal use: WOV “Blue” Hymnal; LBW “Green” Hymnal.

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

PRELUDE *O Holy Night*

with Michael Fisher, violin

***THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

***HYMN** **Once in Royal David's City** (WOV “Blue” 643)

***GREETING**

P Christ is born! Alleluia! 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.**

***KYRIE (Sung)**

C **Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy**
Upon us.

Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy
Upon us.

God the Father, with the Spirit, gave us Christ to
love and save us.

Lord have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Tune *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Words BDV and others, 2017

***HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (LBW “Green” 71)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

2The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

1Sing to the LORD| a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

**2Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

3Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**4For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

5As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

**6Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

7Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

**8Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

9Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

10Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo- | ples with equity."**

11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that | is therein.

12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing,

O LORD,

for you come to | judge the earth.

13 You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

THE SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king. (REGENT SQUARE)**

***THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20**

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to

them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C (sung) **Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king. (REGENT SQUARE)**

SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us 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.**

***THE PRAYERS**

(after each petition: Merciful God/Hear our prayer.)

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM *In The Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst arr. Mack Wilberg

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung responsively to IN DULCI JUBILO, “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”)**

P O may the good Lord be with you,

C And may the Lord be with you too.

P Lift your hearts and voice in praise,

C To the Lord our voices raise.

P Christ comes down from God above,

C To share with us the Father's love

P & C Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

(Spoken)

P It is indeed right, salutary and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful
God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant
vision of your glory, that beholding the God
made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom
we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with
the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung)

P & C Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might adored!

Heaven and earth reflect your bliss,

For your Word is in our midst,

Blessed be the One who comes,

In God's name, Hosanna.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

(Spoken)

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."

(Sung)

**P & C Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Rejoicing in Christ who has come among us, let pray as our Savior taught 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**

**C Lord Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world,
Redeemer sweet who brings God's peace,
the babe, the son of Mary.
This, this is the Lamb of God
who takes away the world's great sin.
This, this is the Child mild, the babe, the son of Mary.**

Tune GREENSLEVES

Words Suggested by the Liturgy of St. James

***INVITATION**

**P Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Come to the Christmas Feast!**

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

THE COMMUNION

Please join in singing the following as we commune:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW “Green” 41)
Away in a Manger (WOV “Blue” 644)
O Come All Ye Faithful (LBW “Green” 45)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.

C Amen.

***CANDLELIGHTING**

P Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and the glory of
the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and
a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory
will be seen through you.

C Amen.

(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor. Remember to keep your candles upright and burning until the conclusion of “Joy to the World”).

***HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (LBW “Green” 65)**

***PRAYER OF LIGHT**

P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your Light into our world
has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and
empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and
forever.

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN Joy to the World (LBW “Green” 39)**

***DISMISSAL**

P Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata from Symphony V Charles-Marie Widor

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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, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau and the family of Ray Doebler.

WORSHIP LEADERS, 10 p.m.

Lector Ray Huff

Communion Assistants Gregg Dancho & Kathy Dancho

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS: Mike Jensen, Captain. Gary Weber, Sean Jensen and Shelby Weber

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.

A Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022 to all!

Pastor Brian Vasey and Family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Sunday, December 26 there will be only one worship time at 9:30 am.

+Please note that the Church Office will be closed, Monday, December 27 in celebration of our Lord's Nativity.

+Please complete the communion card and give it to an usher before coming forward for holy communion. Thank you.



Christmas 2021

We Remember and Honor.....

White Poinsettias given in Loving Memory of:

Ann Miller, loving wife, by Robert Miller

Red and White Poinsettias given:

In memory of Jim Buckman and in honor of Ren Buckman Holahan by Debra Buckman

In memory of our father, Ray Kinney, our mother, Carol Smith and our sister,
Peggy Watkins by Mike and Jackie Kinney

In memory of Allen and Josephine Malick and Julia and Phillip Williams by Cheryl
and David Williams

In honor of our children, Ben, Hannah and Elizabeth by Drew and Vicki Hausmann

Red Poinsettias given:

In memory of William Hill by Shirley Hill

In memory of Clair and Countess Miller by Robert Miller

In memory of our parents by Gary and Donna Clark

In memory of our mother and father, Reba and Eugene Jacobs by John and Holly
Carson and Linda Rosini

In memory of Ed and Mary Gair by the Gair family

In memory of husband, James Doane and son, Larry Doane by Ernestine Doane

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Priest and daughter, Elizabeth from grandson
and niece

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lloyd Beisel from son and wife, Roberta

In memory of Bob and Shirley Campbell by their children

In memory of Raymond Stiller by Mary Ann Stiller

In memory of loved ones by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler

In memory of Ralph and Elda Zeigler by the Zeigler family

In memory of Jack and Eleanor Whiting by (family) Herb Poff and Candy and Steve
Dewar

In memory of Bill and Prudy Poff By (family) Herb Poff and Candy and Steve Dewar

In memory of our parents by Ray and Cindy Huff

In memory of our grandparents, Rosena and Leon Haines and Joann Zeigler by
Anna and Laura Zeigler

In memory of Ruth and Jack Burkholder and Anna Plank by Dan, Diana, Anna and
Laura Zeigler

In memory of Linda Kay Walter by Dan, Diana, Anna and Laura Zeigler

In honor of our daughters, Anna and Laura by Dan and Diana Zeigler

In honor of our children, Riley and Stefan and in honor of our mothers, Ruth and
Gloria by Gary and Shelby Weber

In honor of our children and grandchildren by Phil and Barb Thomas

In honor of our grandchildren, Shay, Smith and Nolan by Kathy and Gregg Dancho

Hunger Offerings given:

In memory of Don and Helen Ochs by Mike Ochs

In memory of Forrest and Margaret Klinger by Ron and Donna Bake

COMMEMORATIONS IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning, with Saul (later Paul) as one of the observers. As he died he witnessed to his faith and spoke of a vision from heaven.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, December 27, 2021

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James and Peter were the three who witnessed the transfiguration. Tradition has attributed authorship of the Gospel according to John, three epistles and Revelation to this apostle.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day are the children of Bethlehem, two years and younger, who were murdered by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of "the new king", Jesus. (Matthew 2:16-18).

Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and named (Luke 2:21).

The Epiphany of Our Lord (the adoration of the Wise Men)

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Epiphany Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, January 2, 2022.