

The Second Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany Sunday
January 2, 2022
in the 169th 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



Welcome to St. 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 at St. Mark's. Thank you!

A Guide to Hymnal Use:

LBW refers to our Green Hymnal

WOV refers to our Blue Hymnal

An Order for Holy Eucharist in a Hymn Tune Setting for Christmastide.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Douglas Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C **Amen.**

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.
Silence is kept for reflection.

C **Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.**

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
† In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in peace.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN The First Noel (LBW, “Green”, 56)**

***GREETING**

P Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given! 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**

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**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(LBW, “Green”, 60)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS:

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people. In the worship life of this congregation, Epiphany (January 6) is celebrated today, January 2, 2022 (the Sunday following New Year’s Day).

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
The word of the Lord
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

1 Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
**2 that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
**4 Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**
5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
**6 Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
7 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
**10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**
11 May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

**12For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

13He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**14From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king. (REGENT SQUARE)**

***THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 2:1-12**

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P 1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

***HYMN We Three Kings (WOV, “Blue”, 646)**

***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/Receive 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.

ANTHEM *Masters in this Hall*

Traditional French Carol

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung: IN DULCI JUBILO)**

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!

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:

**P & C (sung) 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!**

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."

P & C Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as our Savior Christ has 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**

**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 GREENSLEEVES/ Words - Suggested by the Liturgy of St. James

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

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

COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Lord God, you gave us
Christ the Son to save us.
As you sent the One foretold,
send us now with good news for all people.
Let the gladness of this feast have no end
as we share with others the joy that fills us;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

***HYMN As With Gladness Men of Old (LBW, “Green” 82)**

DISMISSAL

P In Christ the Light has come!
Rejoice in the Light!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE O Come All Ye Faithful S. Williams

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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, James 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, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau.

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/2/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Leah Haussmann

10:30 a.m. Kathy Dancho

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m. Gregg & Kathy Dancho

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, Captain. Brenda, Owen, Levi Gair and Paul Zimmerer

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.

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who shared with the Vasey Family cards, gifts and well - wishes during this Christmas Season!

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS. The installation of new Council members will take place on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at our 10:30 worship service.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

As beautiful as St. Mark's Christmas decorations are, the season of Christmas has come to an end. Please come help us "undecorate" the Nave, Narthex and Front Lounge on Saturday, January 8th. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall ~ with a box of donuts and some coffee to start things off right! All hands are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

The New Year 2022 **ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP BOOK** is available now in the Narthex. There are five slots open in January. Please take a moment to sign up if you are so inclined.

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 (12/24/21)

Regular	\$ 4,711.00
Plate	\$ 56.00
Capital Fund	\$ 700.00
World Hunger	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00
Global Missions	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,911.00

Grand Total \$ 8,528.00

OUR STEWARDSHIP (12/26/21)

Regular	\$ 1,018.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 157.00

Grand Total \$ 1,175.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In loving memory of Margaret and Forrest Klinger by their daughter, Donna Baker and family.

+ In loving memory of Jennie and Walter Belles and Carl, Lois and Jeanne family by the family.

COMMEMORATIONS

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)

Sunday, January 9, 2022

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Saturday, January 15, 2022

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.