

**The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 13, 2022**  
*in the 169<sup>th</sup> year of the Parish*  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701**  
**[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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, Setting One, Lutheran Book of Worship*  
*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**      *Praise the Almighty!*

Robert J. Powell

**WELCOME AND 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                                      Dearest Jesus, at Your Word                      LBW, “Green”, 248**

**\*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



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



**B** 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. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

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

*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 17:5-10**

5Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

6They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

7Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

8They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

10I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 1**

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

2**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

**4It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

**6For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

**THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

12Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 GOSPEL.....Luke 6:17-26**

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P 17[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

21“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

22“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

25“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

26“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P The gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

\*HYMN            **Let Justice Flow Like Streams**            **WOV, “Blue”, 763**

## \*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

*After each petition: God of Grace/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**

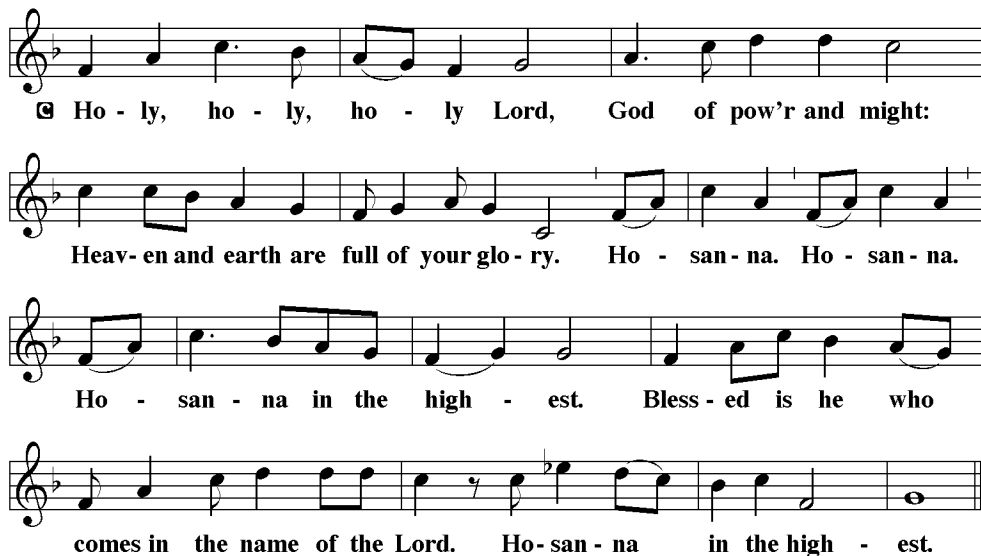
☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ 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 all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

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 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**

☪ 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.

**\*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** Come to the feast in the light of Christ!

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

## **COMMUNION**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God,  
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.

Send us to bring good news  
and to proclaim your favor to all,  
strengthened with the richness of your grace  
in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

#### **\*BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen.**

\*HYMN

# Christ, Be Our Light

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go with Christ into a weary world.  
Share the good news.

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

**POSTLUDE** *Fugue in G Major* JS Bach

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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 Jeremy Splain.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (2/13/2022)**

**Lector** 8 a.m. Vicki Haussmann

10:30 a.m. Pam Jensen

**Communion Assistants**

8 a.m. Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m. Carl & Audrey Albright

**Organist** Carol Waltz

**USHERS:**

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Mike Jensen, Captain. Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber

**WELCOME CAROL WALTZ.** Today we welcome Carol Waltz as our guest organist and thank her for sharing her talents with us.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!** Yesterday at St. Mark's, Gabrielle Gallagher and Brendan Bowman were united in Christian Marriage. Gabrielle is the granddaughter of Mark and Susan Mahserjian-Smith. Susan was a former church secretary. May God bless their union in Christ.

**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.

### **DO YOU ENJOY QUILTING?**

St. Mark's would like to "resurrect" our Quilting Ministry! If you like to sew or quilt or are just interested contact Wanda Fortin at 570-584-6403 or [wmariefort@gmail.com](mailto:wmariefort@gmail.com).

**THE AED** (Automated External Defibrillator) and first aid kit are located in the hallway outside of the chapel.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** The Bengals? The Rams? What on earth do these names even mean? It means that the football season is drawing to a close and Super Bowl Sunday is today.

Whether you are a fanatic football fan or are just in it for the snacks, "Souper Bowl Sunday" gives us a wonderful opportunity to also think about others in our community. Today we collect those cans of soup to help stock the United Churches Food Pantry. Our "Famous Football Tubs" are in the Narthex ready to accept cans of soup (or other non-perishable food). If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made (checks should be earmarked for Souper Bowl of Caring). Monetary donations will be used to support the many ministries of Shepherd of the Streets.

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

Let's see what we can do together to help fight hunger here in Williamsport. Thank you!

**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 (2/06/2022)**

Regular Offering	\$ 4,281.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 25.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 19.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 90.00
Capital Fund	\$ 10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 90.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Souper Bowl	\$ 30.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	\$ 30.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,605.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

- + In loving memory of our parents, Luella and Lawrence Bair, by the children.
- + In loving memory of Robert and Shirley Campbell by the family.
- + In loving memory of my husband, Frank, by Shirley Vognet.

**COMMEMORATIONS**

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546**

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

## **WHY “VALENINE'S DAY”?**

Valentine's Day is loosely based upon the legend of the Christian Martyr, Valentine, a third century pastor. The story goes that under the rule of the emperor Claudius, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. The sentence was carried out on February 14, in or about the year 270. While in jail, Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it “From Your Valentine.”

Centuries after his death the name “Valentine” became attached to romance; it is thought that this came about because February 14 was at one time the Feast Day of a pagan festival of love.

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind...and you neighbor as yourself.” That is much more than romance. It is a love that goes above and beyond law and common decency. It is a love that yields to another and treats the other as an extension of the one practicing love.

Valentine took the teaching of Jesus to heart and left us a great example of Christ far deeper than the common vision of candy, cards and flowers. To truly be “My Valentine” is to love the God who first loved us and to love neighbor as ourselves.