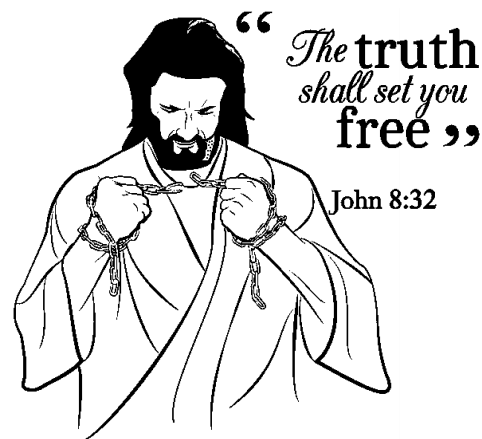


**The Reformation Sunday**  
*A Service of Word and Table*  
in the 167th Year of the Parish  
October 25, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am

**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."*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

*(Please stand where there is an asterisk.)*

### \*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**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* .....LBW 229

**A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.**

**The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**

**God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.**

**Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,**

**though life be wretched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

*Introduction: Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 46** (*Read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE GOSPEL.....John 8:31-36**

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

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

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**\* THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty.**

**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 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**

Response: **[P]** Lord, in your mercy      **[C]** Hear our prayer.

**\*THE PEACE** **[P]** The Peace of the Lord be with you.      **[C]** And also with you.

*Please remember to share the peace without physical contact.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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, 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 the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, 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.**

### **\*THE COMMUNION**

**P** Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

**C** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **AN EXORTATION FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY**

**P** By way of the Holy Spirit, the Lord God has seen fit to call us together as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place. In our history of being God's people known

as St. Mark's Lutheran Church, our God has empowered us to proclaim the word of creation, redemption, blessing, forgiveness, guidance, mission, hope and promise.

Therefore, people of God, on this day I invite you to commit yourselves and your whole lives to God's holy word and to his loving purpose for you and for us as St. Mark's Lutheran Church, so that our lives may be enriched and the work of our hands blessed and prospered.

P Let us pray. Accept, O God, the tokens of our love and signs of pledge and commitment which we make before you today. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, as blessings in your kingdom, as joy in Jesus Christ.

**C Amen**

**\*THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, the strong mighty fortress of the universe: Father, Son † and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word.....LBW 230*

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would rest the kingdom from your Son  
And bring to nought all he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy Church,  
that we may sing your praise triumphantly.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C Thanks be to God.**



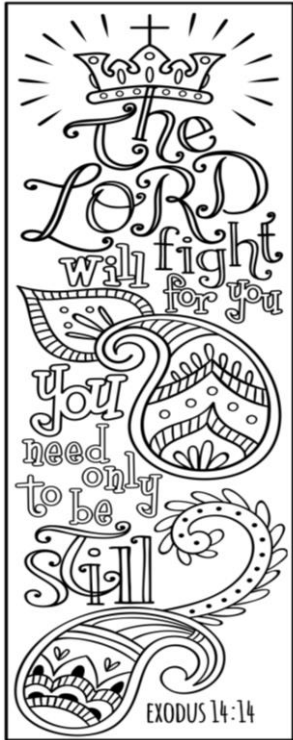
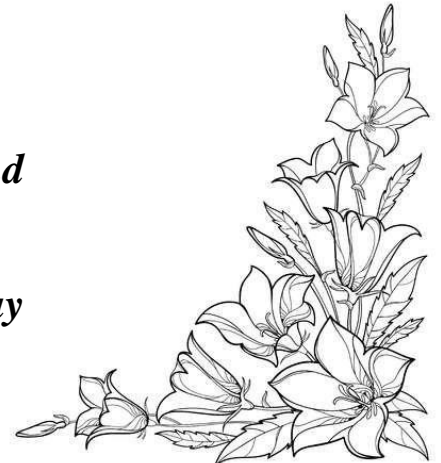


*On this date in 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That event sparked a reform movement that eventually led to a Lutheran church and separate denominations. While there is much sorrow in the disunity which the Reformation caused, Luther did establish the idea that the Church is always in need of reform in the light of the gospel. Luther's primary principal that Christians are justified by God's grace through faith in Christ has also found universal acceptance among denominations. Today we pray for church unity, for the purity of God's word, and for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*Our flowers today are given to the glory of God:*

† ***In loving memory of John C. Rees by Ruth, Grant, and Lisa Rees***

† ***In honor of our daughter Hannah on her 19th birthday by Vicki and Drew Haussmann***



***Healing:*** Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Randy Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, and Steve Dewar.

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## Assisting in Worship Leadership 10/25

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Connie Shaible & Sally Bjornstad	
	<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>USHERS</b>	Dick Miller and Herb Poff	Carl Albright (Captain), Brenda, Owen, and Livi Gair. Sally Bjornstad, (side door)
<b>LECTORS</b>	Becky Pyor	Mel Wentzel
<b>GUEST PARISH MUSICIAN</b>	Leitha Keiser	