

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 17, 2021**

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

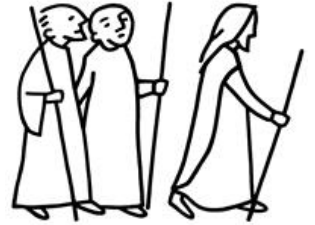
142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)

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 “Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin
Max Reger (1873-1916)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

THE ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsor I present Finley Matthew Hanford to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P In Christian love you have presented Finley Matthew for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services in God’s house, and teach him the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

Parents and Sponsors I do.

Water is poured into the fount

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you saved Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Finley Matthew who is here baptized may be given new life. In this water, wash away his sin, and bring him forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

P People of God, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C **I do.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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**

Water is poured over Finley with these words:

P Finley Matthew is baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Finley Matthew, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of Finley with oil prepared at the annual “Chrism Mass” with these words:

P Finley Matthew, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

A lighted candle is given to Finley with these words:

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us pray. God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness. Strengthen them in their faith and in the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Through Baptism God has made Finley a brother and a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God. Amen.

HYMN *In Christ Called to Baptize*

In Christ Called to Baptize



1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,



and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.



In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.




then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

GREETING

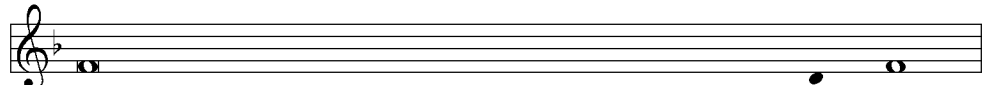
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.


KYRIE



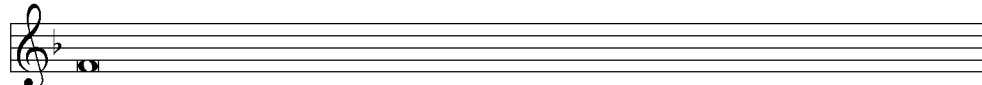
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



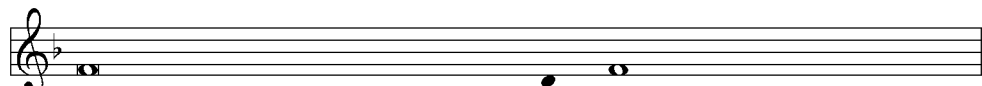
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



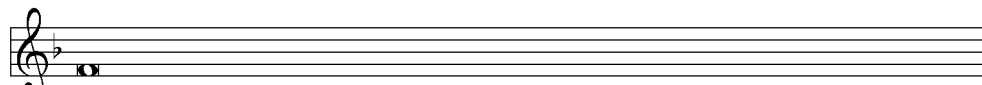
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



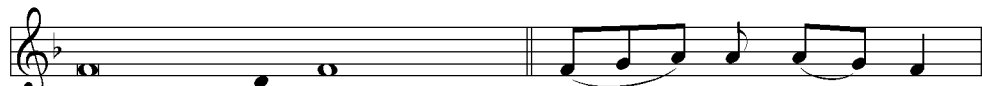
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



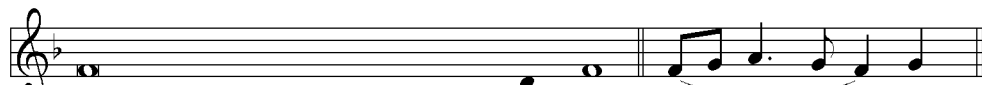
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest*



A Glory to God in the highest, 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. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer,

for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

THE FIRST LESSON.....1 Samuel 3:1-10

1Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. 4Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” 5and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. 6The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” 7Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. 8The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. 9Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”
The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

1 LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

**2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

3 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**4 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

5 You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

13 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**14 I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

15 My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**16 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they came to be.

17 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

**18 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 6:12-20

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." 17 But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God,

and that you are not your own? 20For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL.....John 1:43-51

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-ct, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf
Johann Christian Kittel (1732-1809)

+++++

Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Sarah Prevelige, the Family of John (Bob) Shaible.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTOR Drew Haussmann

CANTOR/SONG LEADER Ray Huff

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

Our Stewardship

Regular Offering	\$3,681
Advent and Christmas	\$ 5
Initial Offering	\$ 30
Food Pantry	\$ 20
Flower Memorials	\$ 30
Memorials	\$ 50
TOTAL	\$3,816.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Finley! Today, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we welcome into the Family of God, Finley Matthew Hanford. Finley is the son of Addison and Paige Hanford of Hughsville. His sponsors are Matthew and Wanda Fortin.

Kick-off Anniversary Celebration Service: Today at 3 pm, New Covenant UCC, Williamsport (202 E. Third St.), on zoom and live-streamed on Facebook. Bp. Barbara Collins is the guest speaker.

Flower Tributes: Although we do not have flowers while in-person worship is suspended, we can still have “Flower Tributes”. The tributes and sponsors from the “Altar Flower Book” will be honored and printed in the bulletin. A donation of \$10.00 is recommended. If you do not have a date scheduled for altar flowers but would like to participate, please contact Sally Bjornstad (570-494-6637).

By action of our Congregational Council, all in-person worship services have been suspended until further notice. Virtual worship by way of video will continue to be offered through our web page and Facebook. Should be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office.

UPCOMING COMEMMORATIONS

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Sunday, January 17, 2021

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter

Monday, January 18, 2021

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.