

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
*The Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

**February 14, 2021**

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

**Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor**

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**

**PRELUDE**      *Voluntary in d minor, Adagio* John Stanley (1712-1786)

**WELCOME/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**

## Beautiful Savior



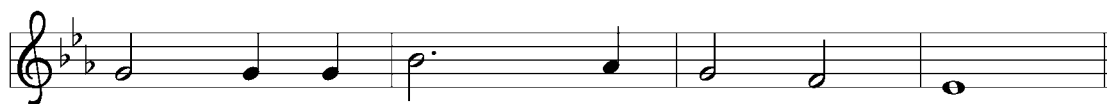
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

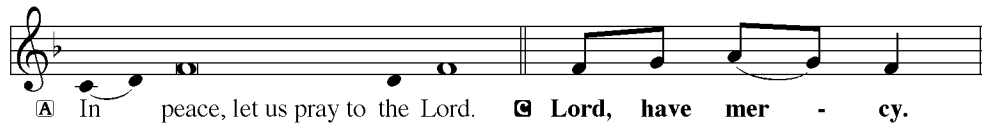
Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

### THE GREETING

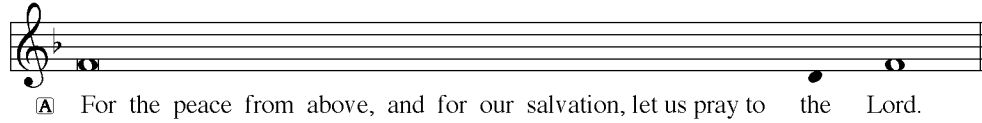
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you


# KYRIE



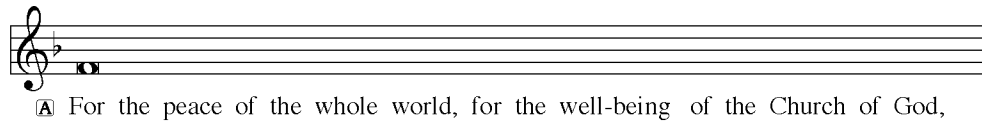
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



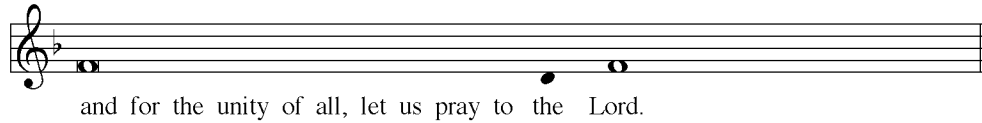
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



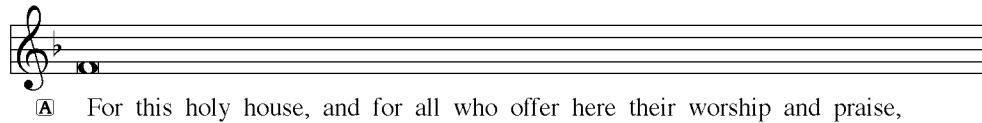
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



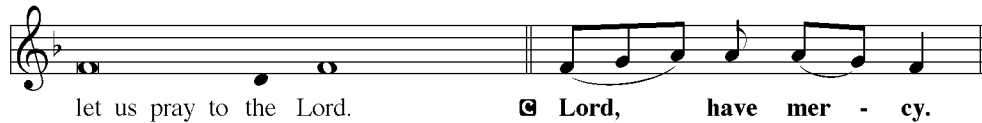
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



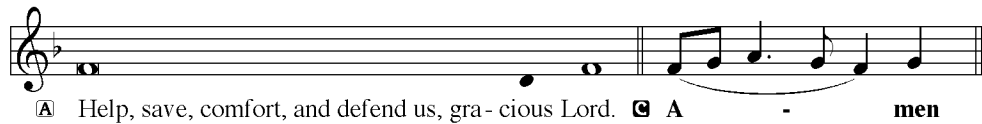
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**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*

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

Ⓑ 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. Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from

the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through 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 Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.*

### **THE FIRST LESSON..... 2 Kings 2:1-12**

1Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. 3The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

4Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. 5The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

6Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. 7Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on

dry ground.

9When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” 10He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” 11As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord. C      **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 50:1-6**

1The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**2Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

3Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**4God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

5“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**6The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**

### **THE SECOND LESSON..... 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

16If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! 17For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21To those outside the

law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL..... Mark 9:2-9**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter

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

2Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" 8Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**



## Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Living together in trust and hope we 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 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.**

**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 PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Let us pray/Have mercy, O God.**

**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**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BURYING THE ALLELUIA**

**P In preparation for the Season of Lent we bury the word, “Alleluia”, vowing not to sing or say the word in worship until the great and glorious Easter Vigil. In burying the Alleluia we acknowledge that before Jesus rose from the dead he was crucified; before there is the joy of resurrection there is the sorrow of crucifixion.**

## Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

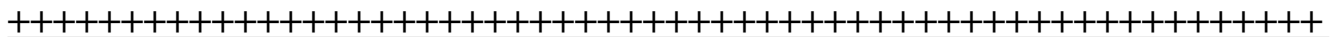
### THE BLESSING

**P** Almighty God: Father, Son  $\text{✝}$  and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Voluntary in d minor, Allegro* John Stanley (1712-1786)



**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown,

Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, 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, Bunny Ditchfield. Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer.

**LEADING US IN WORSHIP**

**LECTOR** Linda Rosini  
**CANTOR/SONG LEADER** Deb Buckman  
**ORGANIST** Sam Robinson

***Our Stewardship*** (for period: 01/27/21 to 02/6/21)

Regular Offering	\$5,254
Lent	\$50
Initial Offering	\$25
World Hunger	\$50
Food Pantry	\$50
Global Mission	\$50
Shepherd of the Streets	\$20
Capital Fund	\$50
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$30
Memorials	\$20
Synod Benevolence	\$85
Souper Bowl of Caring	Not available at the time
Grand Total	\$5,759.00

**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).

**Today's Tributes:**

*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*

*In honor of my son and daughter-in-law Grant and Lisa Rees' anniversary*

*by Ruth Rees.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you to all who participated in our Souper Bowl of Caring!**

**The Faith and Fellowship and Outreach Committees thank** the congregation for their many donations of non-perishable food items, snacks and hygiene products during the Advent and Christmas seasons. A total of 335 food items and snacks were distributed to the American Rescue Workers Food Pantry and the New Covenant UCC Blessing Boxes. The United Churches Food Pantry is requesting only monetary donations be given at this time. The 106 hygiene items were welcomed by the 'Shepherd of the Streets' office. The Shepherd requested that the blankets, toothpaste and toothbrushes be given to Family Promise for use at their Day Center as currently SOS is well stocked with those particular items. All of the churches and nonprofits were grateful for our donations. Thank you again for sharing in the caring.

**Camp Mt. Luther** is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from our Church Office (570-323-4619).

**By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School will resume February 21 (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing and social distancing. Mid-week Lenten Services In-person worship services for Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays in Lent, 12:15-12:45 pm) are virtual (video only) and may be viewed on our web site and Facebook page. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).**

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## **COMEMMORATIONS**

**Valentinus (Valentine), 3<sup>rd</sup> century pastor**

*Sunday, February 14, 2021*

Valentine was a teacher and pastor who ministered to persecuted Christians in Rome. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery on the Via

Flaminia close to the Ponte Milvio to the north of Rome, on February 14.

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs**  
*Sunday, February 14, 2021*

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546**  
*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

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 Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.