

The Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 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.”

**Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE

Choral Dorian

Jehan Alain

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

***HYMN “Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said**

**“Take up your cross,” the Savior said,
“if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day,
and humbly follow after me.”**

**Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear a golden crown.**

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.

Tune: NUN LASST UNS DEN LEIB BEGRABEN

***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**

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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 second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I

will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31

23You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

**24For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD’s face hid- | den from them;**

but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

25From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

26The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live
forever!**

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

28For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore
the LORD.

30Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 4:13-25

13The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

*THE GOSPEL.....Mark 8:31-38

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

31[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*THE NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope we 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 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 with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

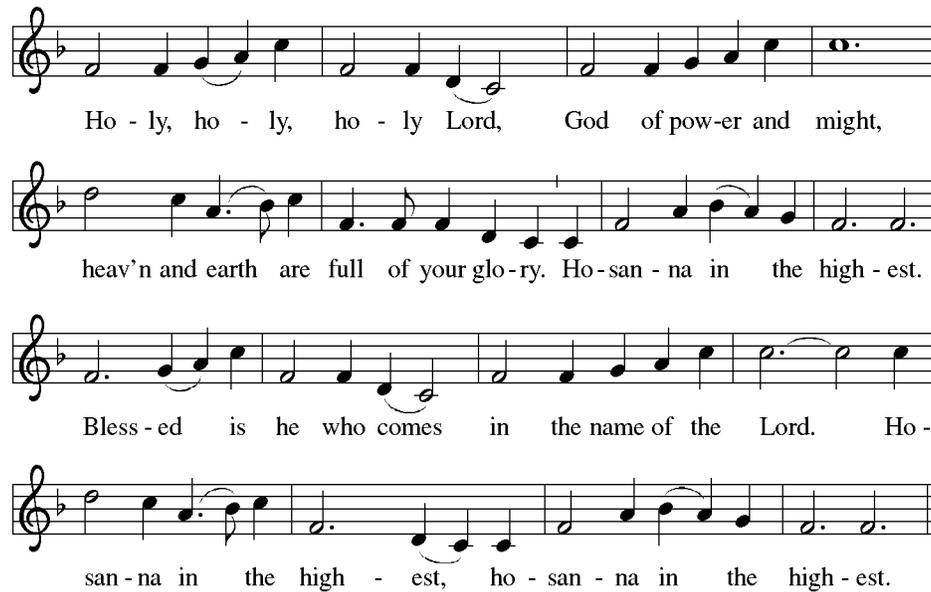
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty 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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:



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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

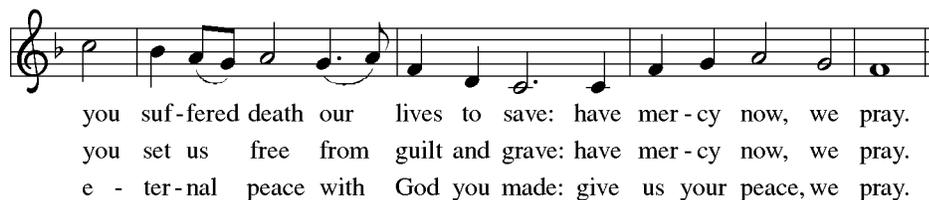
C Amen

THE COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P God of steadfast love,

at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.

Send us in the power of your Spirit,

that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

***HYMN Lift High the Cross**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

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Tune: CRUCIFER

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Olivet (My Faith Looks Up to Thee)* Karl Osterland

+++++

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

LECTORS 8 am Vicki Haussmann/ 10:30 am Mel Wentzel
CANTOR/SONG LEADER (10:30 am) Ray Huff

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: February 28

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Matt Fortin - Captain: Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler, Ruth Sherlinski
(Side Door).

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God in loving memory of
Gregg's Father, Joseph Dancho, by Gregg and Kathy Dancho.

Our Stewardship for 2/07/21-2/22/21

Regular Offering	\$9,855
Plate Offerings	\$ 10
Lent	\$ 127
Bulletin Sponsors	\$ 25
Initial Offering	\$ 25
Miscellaneous	\$ 100
World Hunger	\$ 10
Food Pantry	\$ 10
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 25
Synod Benevolence	\$ 85
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 85
Grand Total	\$10,357.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Subfreezing temperatures and heavy snow has impacted millions of people across our nation, especially in Texas and other southern states. This has led to power, water and food shortages. Lutheran Disaster Relief Response seeks to provide short-term and long-term relief. You can help. An offering basket alongside our regular offering basket has been provided for your convenience. If you choose to give by check, please indicate "US Severe Storms" on the memo line. Thank you.

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (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, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays in Lent) 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).

COMEMMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Monday, March 1, 2021

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.