

**Mary, Mother of Our Lord**  
**August 15, 2021**  
*in the 168<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  
[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



*Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!*

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

*An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am (LBW setting two)*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**

*Sarabande*

G. F. Handel

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given 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 unto 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** **Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones (LBW 175)**

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"  
Cry out, dominions, pryncedoms, pow'rs,  
archangels, virtues, angel choirs:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises: "Alleluia!"  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858-1945  
TUNE: LASST UNS ERFRUEN

## \*GREETING

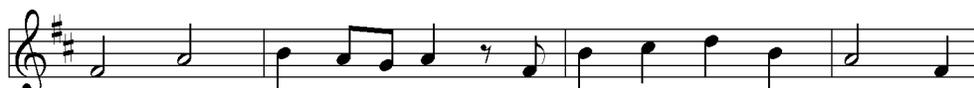
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

## \*GLORY TO GOD



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with 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**

*Mary's role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 61:7-11**

7Because [the] shame [of God's people] was double,  
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore they shall possess a double portion;  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

8For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 34:1-9**

1 I will bless the LORD | at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

**2 I will glory | in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear | and rejoice.**

3 Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's | name together.

**4 I sought the LORD, who | answered me  
and delivered me from | all my terrors.**

5 Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,  
and let not your faces | be ashamed.

**6 I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me  
and saved me from | all my troubles.**

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD  
and de- | livers them.

**8 Taste and see that the | LORD is good;  
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!**

9 Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,  
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

### **THE SECOND LESSON.....Galatians 4:4-7**

4 When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that  
we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God

has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. 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.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 1:46-55**  
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

46Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

51He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

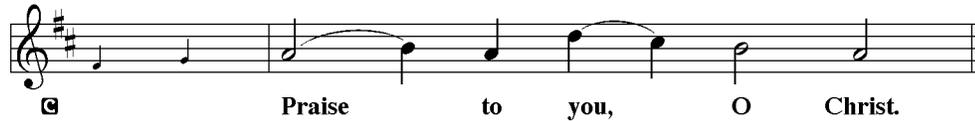
and lifted up the lowly;

53he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

54He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.  
The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

### CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION

*Thanking Bernadette Jones for her years of service to St. Mark's*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Bernadette, we, the members of your church family known as St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport Pennsylvania, wish to take this time to thank you for your many years of service and ministry to us and the Williamsport community, and to wish you a happy and blessed retirement.

P A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." (Exodus 23:20)

*President of Council Bernadette, in holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his body, the church. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as people of God. In this congregation you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this place and God has blessed us through you.*

P Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Bernadette, for the time we have shared together and for her work with and among us. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth in retirement to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

From: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship; Pastoral Care Handbook (Copyright 2008)*  
Augsburg/Fortress Publishers

**\*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**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

*After each petition, "Lord, in your mercy/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

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him 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 in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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**

## \*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, grant us peace.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come!

C Thanks be to God!

## THE COMMUNION

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants will come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup 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 a 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.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

**C** Amen

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

**C** Amen

### **\*HYMN**

#### **Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)**

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**

#### ***Refrain***

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.  
Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us**

**from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *Refrain***

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
TUNE: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German

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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, Joann Zeigler, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler.

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Lector** Gary Weber

**Cantor/Song-leader** Ray Huff

**Communion Assistants** Ray Huff/Gregg Dancho

**President, Church Council** Linda Rosini

**Organist** Sam Robinson

## **USHERS: August 15**

Mike Jensen – Captain: Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber

**Please Note: The Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some restrictions may now be lifted in areas where the infection rate is less severe. Following these guidelines Church Council suggests that if you are fully vaccinated, and feel comfortable in doing so, you may remove your mask. If you are not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask.**

**Thank you Bernadette!**

**Today, Sunday, August 15, St. Mark's Church Council recognizes with gratitude Bernadette Haas Jones for her many years of service and employment in our congregation. A basket for cards is available today for those who wish to participate in a “card shower” for Bernadette.**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 IS BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY! All children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 29 for a Backpack Blessing. A limited of school supplies will be available. Join us as we prepare for a new School Year!**

**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.

**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!

**COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, Aug. 16, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall.**

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**  
**(08/08/2021-08/09/2021)**

Regular Offering	\$3,303.20
Plate Offering	\$ 2.00
Food Pantry	\$ 15.00
Global Mission	\$ 10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 90.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20.00

**Grand Total**                    **\$3,440.20**

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

+ In loving memory of Chuck Campbell by Lauren, Ashley, and Brett Campbell

+ In celebration of our wedding anniversary by Steve and Karen Mariano.

**BULLETIN SPONSORS**

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Mel and Melinda Wentzel. Thank you Mel and Melinda!

**COMMEMORATIONS**

**Mary, Mother of our Lord**

*Sunday, August 15, 2021*

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, "The Magnificat" (our Gospel for today) speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

**Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153**

*Friday, August 20, 2021*

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.