

**The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
October 24, 2021**

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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***Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!***

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

***This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.***

***We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.***

***Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.***

**Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!**

***An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

**PRELUDE** *Prelude on New Britain*

Peter Pindar Stearns

**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**

**God Whose Almighty Word (LBW "Green" 400)**

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

**\*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.



**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. Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen**

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

*Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers that be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”*

## THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 31:7-9

7Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

9With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 126

1When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

**2Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts  
of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done  
great | things for them.”**

3The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

4Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

5Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

6Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

**THE SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 7:23-28**

23The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; 24but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. 28For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



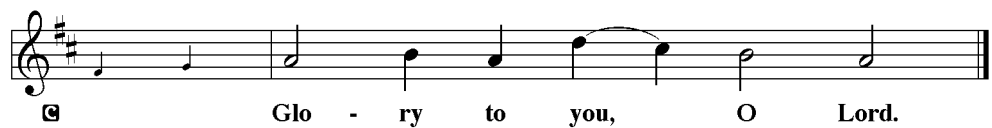
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

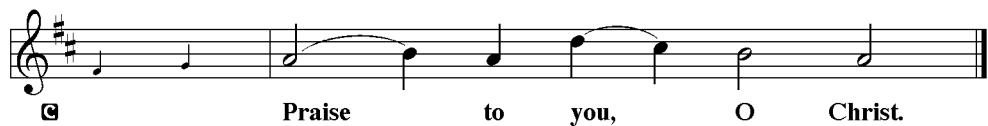
**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 10:46-52**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.



46As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” 50So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” 52Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

\*HYMN

O, Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (ELW 722)

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar-row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833  
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**\*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, "Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great."*

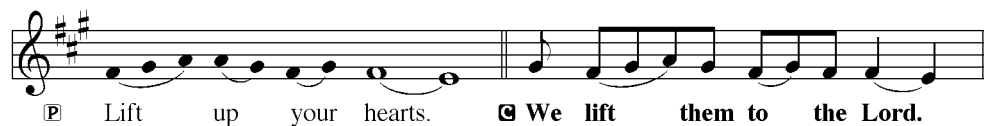
**\*THE PEACE**

**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 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:



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



**C** 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

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

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray 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 the designated 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.*

**P** All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## THE COMMUNION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

**\*THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and  
forever.

**C Amen**

O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;  
 2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,  
 3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;  
 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:  
 thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:  
 the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.  
 in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.  
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.  
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.  
 and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879  
 Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Prospect*

Anonymous

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**Prayer List:** 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, Susan Kalabacas, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou and Linda DeSeau, the victims and family members of COVID-19.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (10/24/21)**

**Lector** 8 a.m. Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m. Greg Dancho

**Cantor/Song-leader (10:30 a.m.)** Sydney Smith

**Communion Assistants**

8 a.m. Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m. Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel

**Organist** Sam Robinson

**USHERS:**

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, Captain. Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair.

**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.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st.** Reformation Sunday will serve as our Consecration Sunday (the day we return our pledges for the next calendar year). On October 31<sup>st</sup>. please bring with you to worship your completed “Estimate of Giving Card” from the October Lion. As you exit from either worship service, place the card along with your church offering in the basket provided. Reformation Sunday provides an excellent opportunity to show our gratitude to God for sharing with us Christ's gifts of acceptance, love, grace, forgiveness, life, life eternal and faith. Join us on October 31 as we say, “thank you” to God for sharing with us all the blessings we enjoy.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.** Please join us in Fellowship Hall on November 7th during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15) to help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. A brief presentation will show how meaningful and life-changing these gifts are to the kids who receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies. Plus, it’s tons of fun as well! Many hands make for light work, and all are welcome to participate in this outreach project. We look forward to seeing you there!!

**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!



## **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Regular Offering	\$ 3,208.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 10.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 20.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 10.00
Blanket Appeal	\$ 50.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	\$ 60.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,358.00</b>

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

+ In loving memory of Elmer D. and Eva F. Hunt and William W. and Frederica M. Bastian by Romain and Evelyn Bastian.

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

**BULLETIN SPONSOR :** Constance Shaible. Thank you Connie!

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

**Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters**

*Tuesday, October 26, 2021*

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

**Simon and Jude, Apostles**

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.