

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of Our Lord

January 9, 2022

in the 169th year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor



Welcome to St. 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 at St. Mark's. Thank you!

A Guide to Hymnal Use:

LBW refers to our Green Hymnal

WOV refers to our Blue Hymnal

An Order for Holy Eucharist, Setting One, Lutheran Book of Worship

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Air in D*

JS Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism as the pastor begins.)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Water is poured into the fount.

P We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over waters
and by your Word you created the world,
in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people in Egypt from slavery into freedom. At the
river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water
and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your
promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

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

C Amen.

***HYMN**

When Jesus Came to Jordan

(WOV, 647)

When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

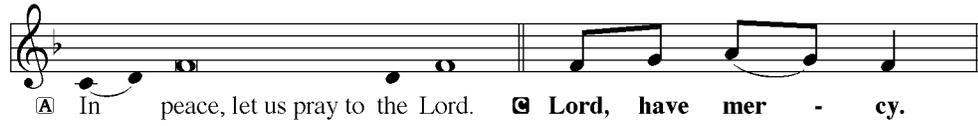
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***GREETING**

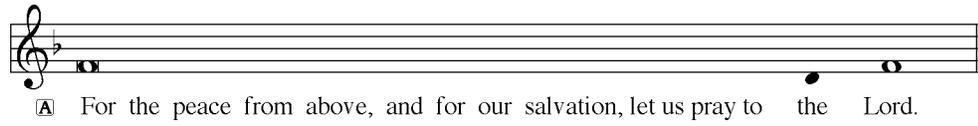
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

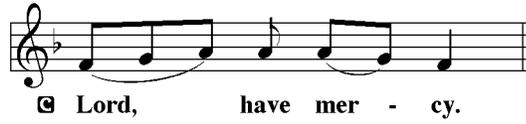
*KYRIE



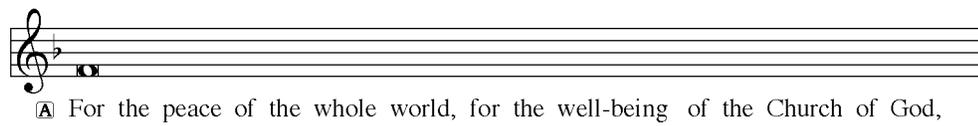
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



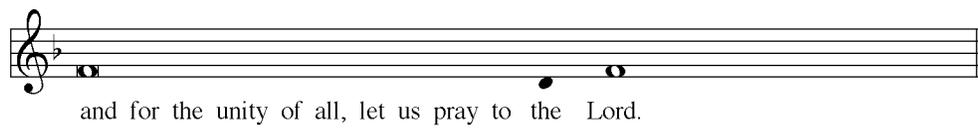
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



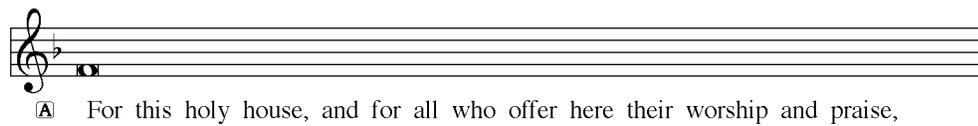
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



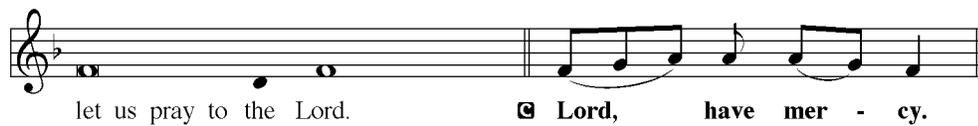
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



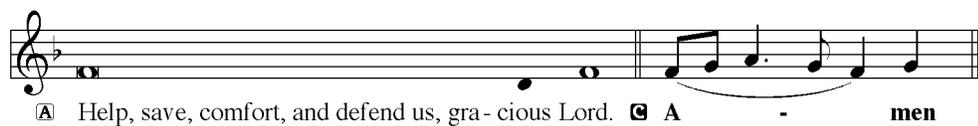
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A Glory to God in the highest, 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, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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:

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 43:1-7

1But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

3For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

5Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

6I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

7everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

1 Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

6 the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

7 The voice | of the LORD

bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

8 The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

10 The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

11 O LORD, give strength | to your people;

give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

THE SECOND LESSON.....Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE GOSPEL.....Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

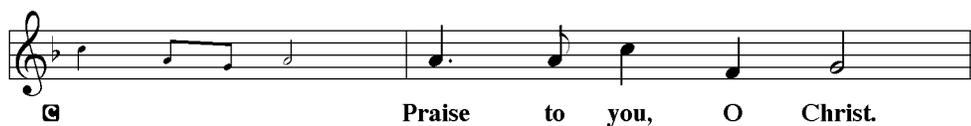


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P 15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

21Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

P The gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation

(Hymnal Not Available)

Crashing Waters at Creation



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED

(8 A.M.)

P Living together in trust and hope, let us 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 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.**

AN ORDER FOR INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS (10:30 A.M.)

P Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of the Church Congregational Council.

The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to the positions of leadership, are asked to stand as their names are read:

Kathy Dancho (first term)

Glenn Yaple (first term)

Herb Poff (second term)

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask all who are here gathered, to join you in standing and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

***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 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.

P *St. Paul writes:* There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this

congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect Christ in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers us all is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which you have been elected? If so answer, "Yes, by the help of God."

Those elected: Yes, by the help of God.

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so, answer in unison, "Yes, by the help of God".

C Yes, by the help of God.

P I now declare you installed as Council Members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Let us pray: For all who offer themselves in your name, we give thanks, O God. Give them the joy of service, and constant care and guidance. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of ministry, that your name be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***THE PRAYERS**

After each petition: Merciful God/Receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

ANTHEM (10:30 A.M.) *Descend, O Spirit*

JS Bach

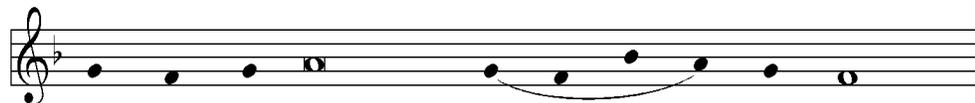
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.



♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.



♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise you name and join their unending hymn:



♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught 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



***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 Come to the feast in the light of Christ!

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.

Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN This Is the Spirit's Entry Now (Hymnal not available)**

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional
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***DISMISSAL**

P Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *In Dir ist Freude*

JS Bach

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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, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doeblor, Walt Hausmann, Lou DeSeau and the family of Blanche Doeblor.

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/9/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Candy Dewar
 10:30 a.m. Karen Mariano

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. Tim Maggs, Captain. Carl Hieber and Charlie Fortin

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.

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who shared with the Vasey Family cards, gifts and well wishes during this Christmas Season.

THANK YOU to all who helped “take down Christmas” yesterday.

The New Year 2022 **ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP BOOK** is available now in the Narthex. There are still a few slots open in January. Please take a moment to sign up if you are so inclined.

The next **COUNCIL MEETING** is Monday, January 17 at 6 p.m. in the Crossways room.

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 (1/2/22- 1/4/22)

Regular Offering	\$ 3,515.00
Grand Total	\$ 3,515.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+ In loving memory of Alice and Gelbert Lloyd by Carl and Beverly Hieber.
+ In loving memory of Bob Shaible by his wife, Connie Shaible.

COMMEMORATIONS

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710

Sunday, January 9, 2022

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Saturday, January 15, 2022

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.