

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 23, 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 *Hostis Herodes Impie* Giovanni Fasolo (1598-1664)

WELCOME AND 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.**

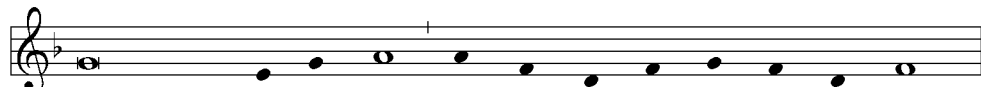
***HYMN Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing LBW, “Green”, 55**

***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.**

*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. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS:

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. 2Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 5And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 8So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

1The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.
2One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.
3Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

5It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

8The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

10More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

12Who can detect one's | own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13**For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15**If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16**And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17**If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18**But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19**If all were a

single member, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deacons of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31aBut strive for the greater gifts.

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 4:14-21**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P 14Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the

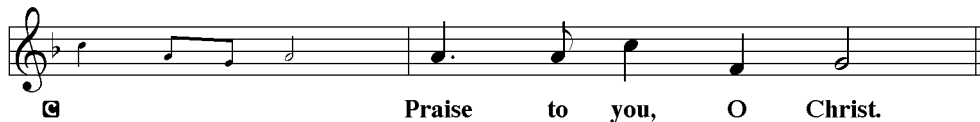
synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

19to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed LBW, “Green”, 87

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.**

***THE PRAYERS**

After each petition: God of Grace/Hear our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

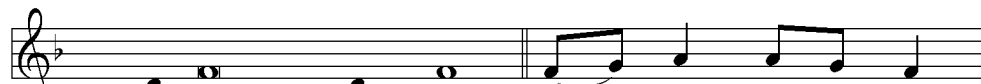
C **And also with you.**

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.

ANTHEM (10:30 A.M.) *Once He Came In Blessing*

Mark Sedio


***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. Ⓞ We lift them to the Lord.

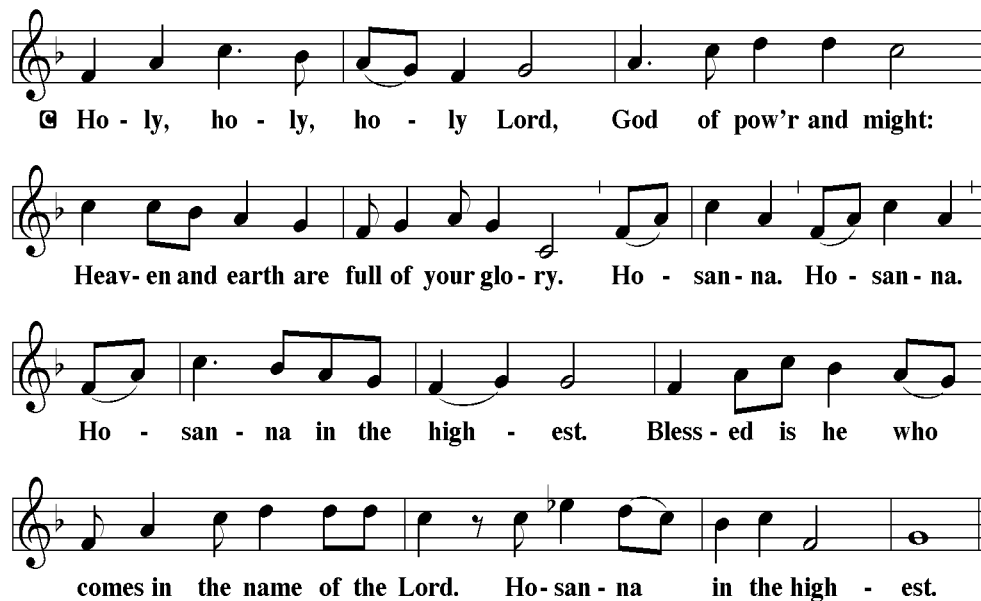


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓞ 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.

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 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,

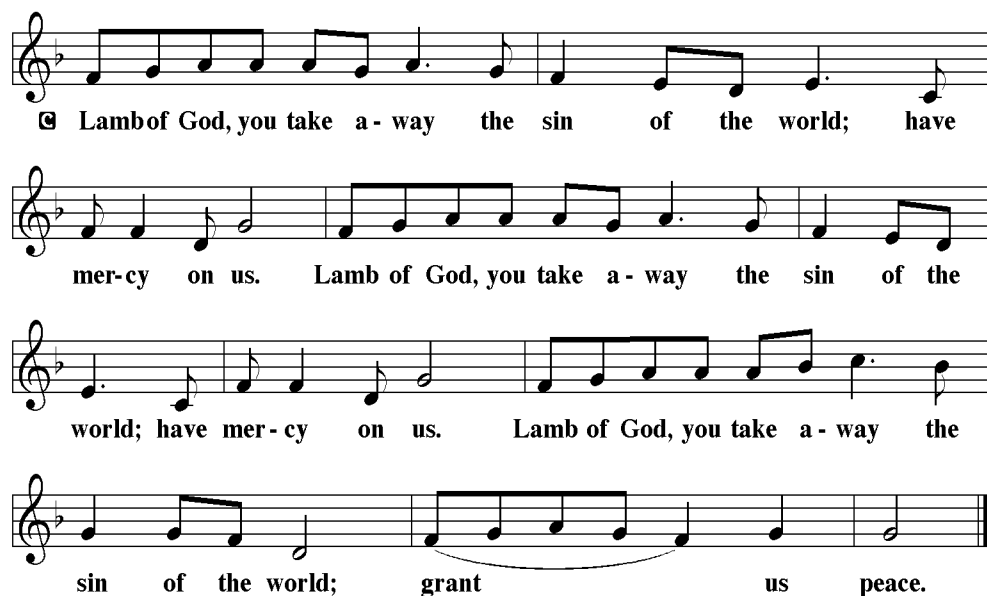
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD



♩ 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.

*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 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve WOV, “Blue”, 723**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Te Deum Laudamus Giovanni Fasolo (1598-1664)

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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 Doebler, Walt Haussmann and Lou DeSeau.

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/23/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Vicki Haussmann
 10:30 a.m. Gary Weber

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann
10:30 a.m. Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff
10:30 a.m. Matt Fortin, Captain. Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler

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.

AED INSTRUCTIONS. Dr. Drew Haussmann has agreed to speak with us on how to use our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Anyone interested can meet in the Front Lounge after this mornings' 10:30 a.m. service. We hope to see you there!

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS:

President **Ralph Zeigler**
Vice-President **Mel Wentzel**
Secretary **Vicki Haussmann**
Treasurer **Pam Jensen**

Congratulations to our new officers!

DO YOU ENJOY QUILTING?

St. Mark's would like to "resurrect" our Quilting Ministry! If you like to sew or quilt or are just interested contact Pam Jensen at 570-506-6721 or prhmjj530@aol.com.

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!

WE HAVE HAD AN EPIPHANY! Our signboard has announced an Epiphany has happened! Indeed the light of Christ has come and in response to his light Council has approved two changes in the names of two of our Church Committees:

“Outreach” will now be called, “Evangelism and Fellowship”. Why the change? Evangelism and Fellowship more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Every extension of hospitality, good and help we share with others is related to the Good News. Kiwanis, Rotary, Moose, etc., reach out to people in similar ways doing similar things but only the church does what it does as followers of Jesus. The name change keeps before us why this committee “does what it does”.

“Faith and Fellowship” will now be called, “Faith Formation”. Why the change? Faith Formation more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Sunday School, Family Activities, Adult Education, and Confirmation all seek to inform our faith. Christian Education is not limited to one age-level in the church. We are to have a “life-long learning encounter with Christ.” The name change reminds us what scripture proclaims: “In following Jesus we are the students of the Master Teacher.”

Committee Chairpersons, Committee Members, Pastor Vasey and Members of Council are welcoming of these changes. Please keep these committees, and all ministries of the church before the Lord in prayer as we all strive to serve Christ in faith.

OUR STEWARDSHIP (1/10/2022 to 1/18/2022):

Regular Offering	\$ 6,851.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Initial Offering	\$ 60.00
Food Pantry	\$ 5.00
Capital Fund	\$ 510.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 210.00

Synod Benevolence	\$ 51.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 50.00
Grand Total	\$ 7,747.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 + In loving memory of George Bjornstad by his wife, Sally Bjornstad.

BULLETIN SPONSOR: Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

COMMEMORATIONS

Conversion of Paul

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Friday, January 28, 2022

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymn writer.