

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 20, 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 *Voluntary in D minor, adagio*

John Stanley

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 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us LBW, "Green", 424**

***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. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS:

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Genesis 45:3-11,15

3Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " 15And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

1Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

**2For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

3Put your trust in the LORD| and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

**4Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

5Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,

and see what | God will do.

**6The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

7Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

**8Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

9For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

**10In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

11But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;

they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

**39But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

40You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge.

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

35But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

42So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

50What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6:27-38**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said:] 27“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN** **Forgive Our Sins, as We Forgive** **LBW, “Green”, 307**

***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**

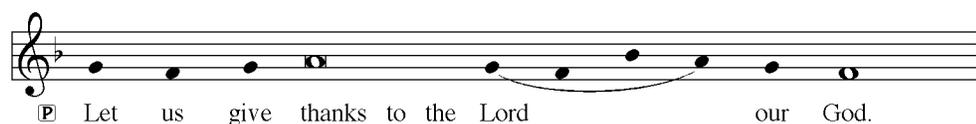
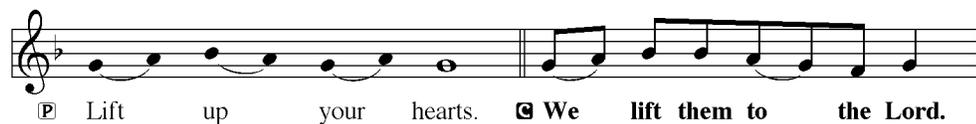
After each petition: God of Grace/Hear our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 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 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** **Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing** **LBW, “Green”, 259**

***DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in D minor, allegro* John Stanley

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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, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau , Jeremy Splain, Sarah Prevelige and the family of Bernadette Jones.

WORSHIP LEADERS (2/20/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Candy Dewar

10:30 a.m. Mel Wentzel

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Becky Pryor

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

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.

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 Wanda Fortin at 570-584-6403 or wmariefort@gmail.com.

THE AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and first aid kit are located in the hallway outside of the chapel.

SHROVE TUESDAY CELEBRATION: St. Mark's will celebrate "Shrove Tuesday" (March 1) the day before Ash Wednesday with a special celebration. At 6:30 p.m. we will gather in Fellowship Hall for donuts and light conversation. Remember that in some circles "Shrove Tuesday" is also referred to as "Fastnacht"; Donut Day, a day to remove all fat and sugar from the home in preparation for Lent. Our celebration will include gathering in our courtyard to burn last year's palms for ashes to be used as our ashes for repentance and mortality on Ash Wednesday. We will conclude our time together with a brief liturgy of prayer and praise as we "Bury the Alleluia" in preparation for Lent. Joined by fellow Lutherans from St. Luke's, Williamsport, this promises to be a meaningful day as we celebrate our faith and life in Christ in anticipation of the Lenten and Easter Seasons. Be sure to join us!

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2: This year there will be two opportunities to receive ashes at St. Mark's:

12:15 p.m. - Brief Service of Ashes and the Word in the Chapel.

7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in the Nave.

All are welcome!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, 12:15 – 12:45 p.m., Wednesdays beginning March 9 through April 6 in Fellowship Hall. "Conversation and Catechism" will explore the scripture texts of Luther's Small Catechism. No meal will be served but feel free to bring a "bag lunch" if you so desire. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. All are welcome!

CHURCH CLEAN-UP: Our beautiful, BIG building could use a little more TLC than one or two people can handle. If you are willing to help dust, clean windows, sweep floors, vacuum carpets, mop..... we would love to have some extra hands to help tidy up a bit. We will meet on **Saturday, March 5** from **9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** to see what we can tackle. Please enter through the Fellowship Hall doors which will be unlocked. Any questions, please contact Vicki Haussmann. We look forward to seeing you!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! While our congregation's "can prediction" for a Cincinnati Bengals victory did not come to fruition (sorry Pastor), the United Churches Food Pantry did come up with a big win thanks to your generous donations. This past Monday, 95 cans of food were delivered to the food pantry to be used in their outreach ministries. Also, \$170.00 was collected and will be used to buy \$10.00 grocery store gift cards that the food pantry will discreetly share with those who are in the most need. Thank you for being a blessing to our Williamsport community through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

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!

RESIGNATION

It is with deep regret St. Mark's Lutheran Church accepts the resignation of Mary Beth Lingle as our Church Secretary. Mary Beth will be leaving the area by the end of February. We thank her for her service to St. Mark's, wish her all our best, and pray God's blessing upon her new venture.

Pastor and Church Council on Behalf of our Congregation.

OUR STEWARDSHIP (2/13/22)

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$ 5,024.00 |
| Bulletin Sponsor | \$ 10.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 50.00 |
| World Hunger | \$ 50.00 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 65.00 |
| Global Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| Sunday School Offering | \$ 6.00 |
| Operation Christmas Child | \$ 50.00 |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | \$ 30.00 |
| Synod Benevolence | \$ 52.00 |
| Souper Bowl | \$ 140.00 |
| Grand Total | \$ 5,527.00 |

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In celebration of our St. Mark's family.

+ In honor of my son and daughter-in-law, Grant and Lisa Rees's anniversary,
by Ruth Rees.

BULLETIN SPONSOR: Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Friday, February 25, 2022

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.