

**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 23, 2022**

*in the 169<sup>h</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.”*

*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.*



**Our COVID-19 Guidelines:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

**Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.**

**Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.**

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**      *Morning has Broken*      Dale Wood

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

*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. The congregation may kneel.*

**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.**

*The pastor stands and gives words of assurance.*

**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  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**                    **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**      **LBW, "Green", 290**

**\*THE GREETING**

**P** The grace of the 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. Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

*Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.*

### THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

7 Although our iniquities testify against us,  
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;  
our apostasies indeed are many,  
and we have sinned against you.

8 O hope of Israel,  
its savior in time of trouble,  
why should you be like a stranger in the land,  
like a traveler turning aside for the night?

9 Why should you be like someone confused,  
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?  
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,  
and we are called by your name;  
do not forsake us!

10 Thus says the LORD concerning this people:  
Truly they have loved to wander,  
they have not restrained their feet;  
therefore the LORD does not accept them,  
now he will remember their iniquity  
and punish their sins.

19 Have you completely rejected Judah?  
Does your heart loathe Zion?  
Why have you struck us down  
so that there is no healing for us?  
We look for peace, but find no good;  
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,  
the iniquity of our ancestors,  
for we have sinned against you.

21 Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;  
do not dishonor your glorious throne;  
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

22 Can any idols of the nations bring rain?

Or can the heavens give showers?  
Is it not you, O LORD our God?  
We set our hope on you,  
for it is you who do all this.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 84:1-7**

1How dear to me | is your dwelling,  
O | LORD of hosts!

**2My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

3Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay  
her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

**4Happy are they who dwell | in your house!  
They will always be | praising you.**

5Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

**6Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

7They will climb from | height to height,  
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

**THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

6As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

16At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 18:9-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

9[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:10“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ 13But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

### \*HYMN

**Fight the Good Fight**

**LBW, “Green”, 461**

**(Alt. Tune, DUKE STREET)**

### **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we affirm our faith, the faith in which we baptize:

**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**

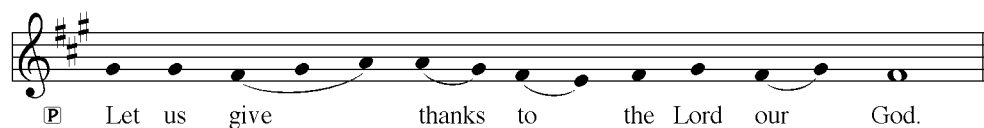
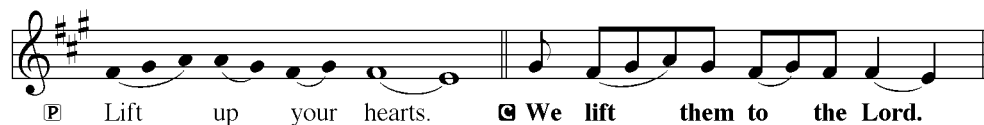
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

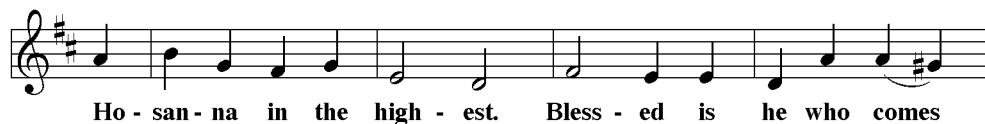
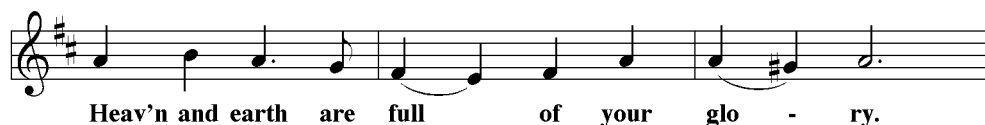
*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words,  
and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*



## \*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 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 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**

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

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *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.*

**P** Christ invites you to his table.

Come, taste and see.

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

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** The body and blood of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you with truth and peace, free you from despair,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C Amen.

\*HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope

LBW, "Green", 300

\*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace with Christ beside you.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise our God

Paul Manz

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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, 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 Hausmann, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Jane Larson.



**THANK YOU CAROL.** Carol Waltz serves as our organist today. We thank you Carol for sharing your talents with us.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (10/23/22)**

<b>Lector</b>	8:00 a.m.	Vicki Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Dan Zeigler
<b>Communion</b>	8:00 a.m.	Jackie Kinney
<b>Assistants</b>	10:30 a.m.	Lou Ann and Ralph Ziegler
<b>Organist</b>		Carol Waltz
<b>Ushers:</b>	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller, Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen - Captain, Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber
<b>Altar Guild</b>	October	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini

**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 (10/16/22)**

Regular Offering	\$1,836.00
Sunday School Offering	10.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,846.00</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

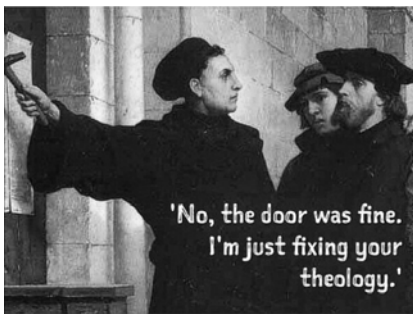


Mrs. Shirley Vognet, longtime member of St. Mark's, is relocating to Arkansas to be with family. Her new address and telephone number will be: 715 Happy Trails, Austin, AR, 72007, phone is 501-422-4484. We wish Shirley safe travel and all our best. Please take a moment to welcome Shirley to her new home by way of a letter, card and/or phone call. Shirley leaves the Williamsport area on October 26.



Thank you to everyone who provided food and monetary gifts for Harvest Home Sunday. We had a very nice response to help those in need with a three day supply of food. Our generous contributions are always appreciated at the United Churches Food Pantry. Donations may be placed on the table in the Narthex throughout the year.

*Worship & Music Committee*



## **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 30, 2022**

Martin Luther will “make an appearance” at both our 8 and 10:30 services. Come and witness “Pastor Luther” nailing his 95 Theses to the Church Door proclaiming the “just shall live by faith”.



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 6th after the 10:30 service to help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. A light lunch will be served, and 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, packing shoeboxes for others is tons of fun! Many hands make for light work, and all are welcome to participate in this outreach project.

We look forward to seeing you there!!



## ***LOOKING AHEAD***

### **LITTLE LAMBS NOAH'S ARK HARVEST PARADE**

Tuesday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m.

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

First Communion classes begin today. Check with Pastor Vasey for times.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2022, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. single service of worship.

### **WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS**

Concerts Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> at both 3:00 and 7:00 pm.

### **CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**

Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Sunday, November 6, All Saints Day

Sunday November 13, Shoebox Sunday

Sunday, November 20, Christ the King Sunday

Thursday, November 24, A National Day of Thanksgiving



The CROP walk was a huge success on October 9th! Thank you to Michael Ochs, Pastor Vasey, Fortin and Hanford families for walking and all who sponsored by donating. Together we raised \$1,627.00!! Our goal was \$1,000.00 and in 2021 we raised \$920.00. We enjoyed another day of beautiful weather and fellowship. We made one more step to Help Stop Hunger. Next year, we hope you can walk with us!



## COMMEMORATIONS



**James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62**

*Sunday, October 23, 2022*

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.



Philipp Nicolai



Johann Heermann



Paul Gerhardt

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

*Wednesday, October 26, 2022*

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.



St. Simon the Zealot  
Apostle and Martyr



St. Jude Thaddeus  
Apostle and Martyr

**Simon and Jude, Apostles**

*Friday, October 28, 2022*

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.