

**The Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 16, 2023**

*in the 170<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)

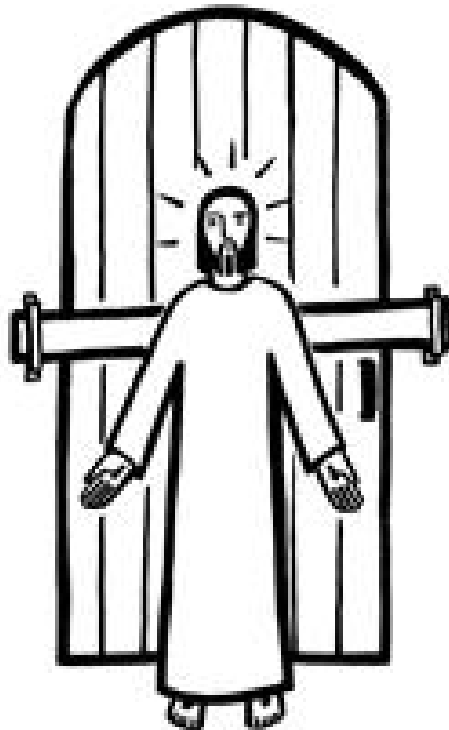
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

*Welcome to Saint Mark's!*

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

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



**Please be aware:**

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

**Face masks are optional.**

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

*A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*P = Pastor C = Congregation*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

**PRELUDE**      *Prelude in a Classical Style*      Gordon Young

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**P**      Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C**      **Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P**      Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C**      **Amen.**

**P**      Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P**      Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,

you are the everlasting wellspring.  
In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.  
*Water is poured into the font as the pastor continues.*  
Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.  
Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all people.  
Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ, the risen One,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.  
**C    Amen.**

**\*HYMN                    Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!                    LBW, "Green", 130**

**\*THE GREETING**

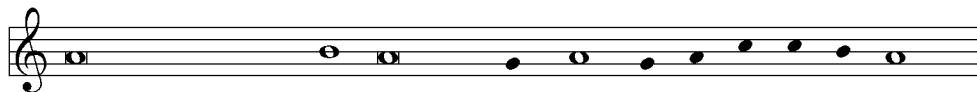
**P    The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**C    And also with you.**

# \*KYRIE



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



Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓑ Lord,    have mer - cy.



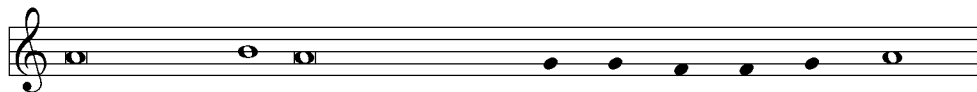
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓑ Lord,    have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓑ Lord,    have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.    Ⓑ A -    men

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**C** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**THE FIRST READING.....Acts 2:14a-22-32**

14aPeter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 22“*You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—*23*this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25For David says concerning him,*

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
26therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
27For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
28You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

29“*Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,*

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

32*This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”*

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 16

1Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

**2All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

3But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**4I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names up on my lips.**

5O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

**6My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

7I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

**8I have set the LORD always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

9My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

**10For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

11You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.

## THE SECOND READING.....1 Peter 1:3-9

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7so that

the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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.....John 20:19-31**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger





**he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, "Risen Lord/Hear our prayer."*

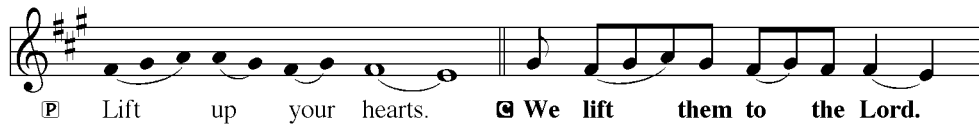
**\*THE PEACE**

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

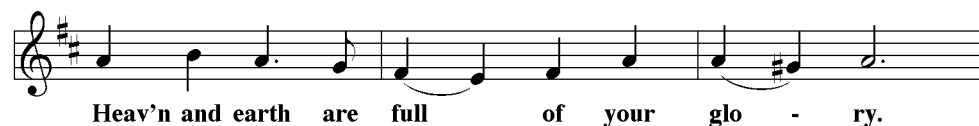
**C** And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words  
and/or gestures of peace.*

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of

your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

☪ Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty  
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is  
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

## \*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.*

*All are welcome at our Lord's Table!*

**P** Come and dine with the Risen Christ!

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

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**C** **Amen.**

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

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! LBW, “Green”, 144**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!**

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE Festive Trumpet Tune David German**

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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, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra

Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber,

Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Robert Miller.



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

+In Loving Memory of our parents by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Arner.

+In Honor of Ben Haussmann’s 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday by Drew and Vicki Haussmann.

## WORSHIP LEADERS (April 16, 2023)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Pastor Vasey
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Carol Waltz
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	April	Connie Shaible Sally Bjornstad Sarah Young

## OUR STEWARDSHIP (April 9, 2023)

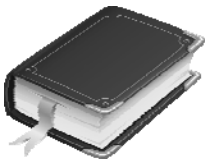
Regular Offering	\$13,148.00
Plate Offerings	102.00
Easter	1,392.00
Lent	198.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
Initial Offering	10.00
World Hunger	20.00
Food Pantry	30.00
Capital Fund	500.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Synod Benevolence	500.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,940.00</b>



### Bulletin Sponsor

Thank You Richard and Charlotte Reitz for sponsoring this week's bulletin.





**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!



**Newsletter**

**Thank You for submitting your articles on time.**

Please remember deadlines so we can get the newsletter out to the members by the first of the month.

This month April the deadline will be

Tuesday, April 18 Deadline for articles

Thursday, April 27 Assembling and mailing the “Lion”.

*Thank  
you* ♥

Dear St. Mark’s Family,

Thank you so very much for the “Easter Goodies”. They put a smile on my face and helped keep me going throughout Holy Week and Easter Day. May the joy and blessings of resurrection and new life continue to be yours throughout this Easter Season!

Pastor Vasey and Family

**Collections in April**



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are collecting items to include in bath kits for New Covenant UCC’s Blessing Boxes. We have the towels and washcloths. We need bars of soap, travel soap dishes, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, band-aids, and smaller bottles of body lotion.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is also collecting new or gently used shoes (sneakers and casual styles) in all sizes for the men and women residing at the Danville State Hospital.

Containers for both of these projects are in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

## **Join us for a discussion of service times on Sunday, April 30, 2023.**

The Worship and Music Committee invites all members of the congregation to join us for prayerful discussion after the 10:30 service on April 30 concerning the possibility of a single service continuing after Labor Day. We are doing this in response to much discussion at the Congregational Meeting in December.

The committee will have a brief meeting after the discussion. We realize that there are merits to keeping the two services after the single summer services. We also realize that there are merits to having one service.

A document will be available in the Narthex on April 16 and 23. Please fill it out with your comments. The document will basically have room for your comments concerning the advantages and disadvantages of having either the services as we have them now, or having a single service. We will have a method of collecting the responses by April 16.

We realize that this is a divisive situation for many members of the congregation. It's time to make a decision on the question of one or two services by the May meeting of the council. The council will make the ultimate decision per the constitution.

Blessings,

*The Worship and Music Committee*



Monday, April 17 -  
 Sunday, April 23, 2023

Monday, April 17	Church Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Civic Chorus Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir and Orchestra (Nave)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 18	"The Lion" Deadline Please submit your articles.	
Wednesday, April 19	<i>See Committee Meetings</i>	
Thursday, April 20		
Friday, April 21		
Saturday, April 22		
Sunday, April 23	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

### BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Best	April 18
Diana Zeigler	April 18
Cynthia Hartzel	April 19
Jeffrey Byerly	April 20
Karen Pelleschi	April 20
Benjamin Haussmann	April 23

### ANNIVERSARY

Audrey and Carl Albright April 23

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 19	Executive Committee Meeting	12:00 Noon
Wednesday, April 19	Property Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week In Your Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at [jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

