

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

in the 170^h 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)

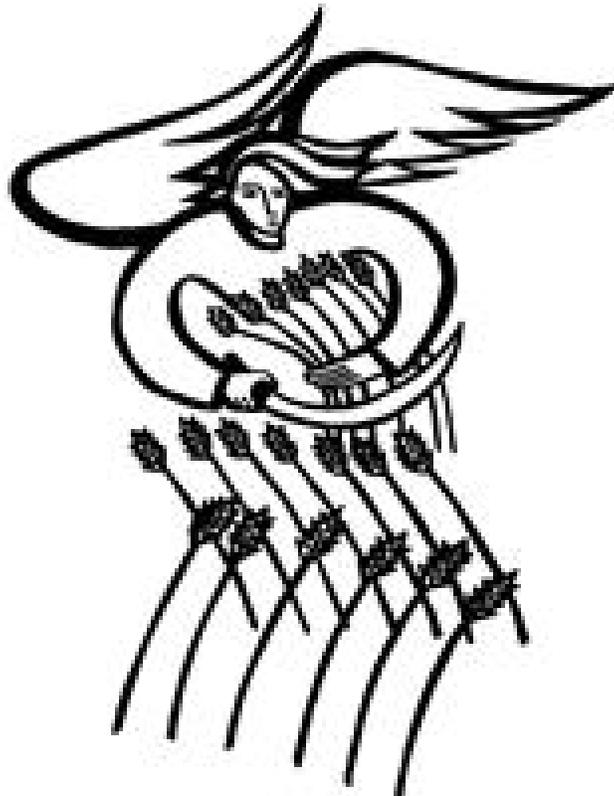
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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.*

C = Congregation P = Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

PRELUDE

I Will Serve the Lord

Franklin Ritter

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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.

Please kneel as able.

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 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 In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***HYMN O Holy Spirit Enter In LBW, "Green", 459**

***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.

***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. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,**
and glorify your name for- | evermore.

¹³**For great is your | love toward me;**
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

14The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;

they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.

15But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

16Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.

17Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and
be | put to shame;

because you, LORD, have helped me and com- | forted me.

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 8:12-25

12So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—13for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 23and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 13:24-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

24[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;25but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN Come, You Thankful People Come LBW, “Green”, 407

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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 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.

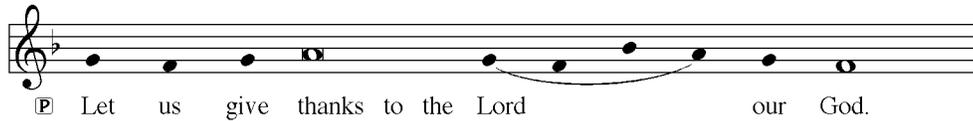
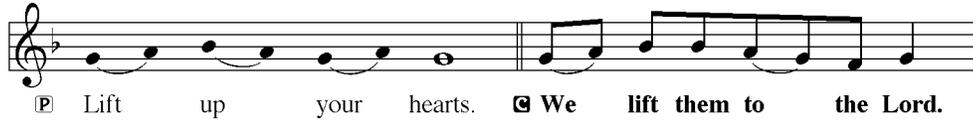
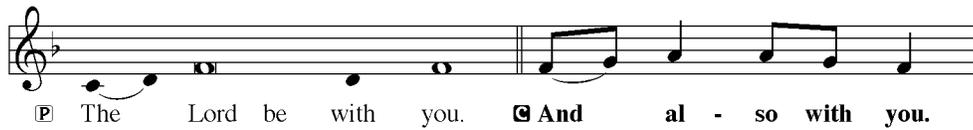
The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words.

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love is This

Soloist: Chase Bower

*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, 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:



Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish

but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit,
into our hearts and on these gifts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this his holy supper.

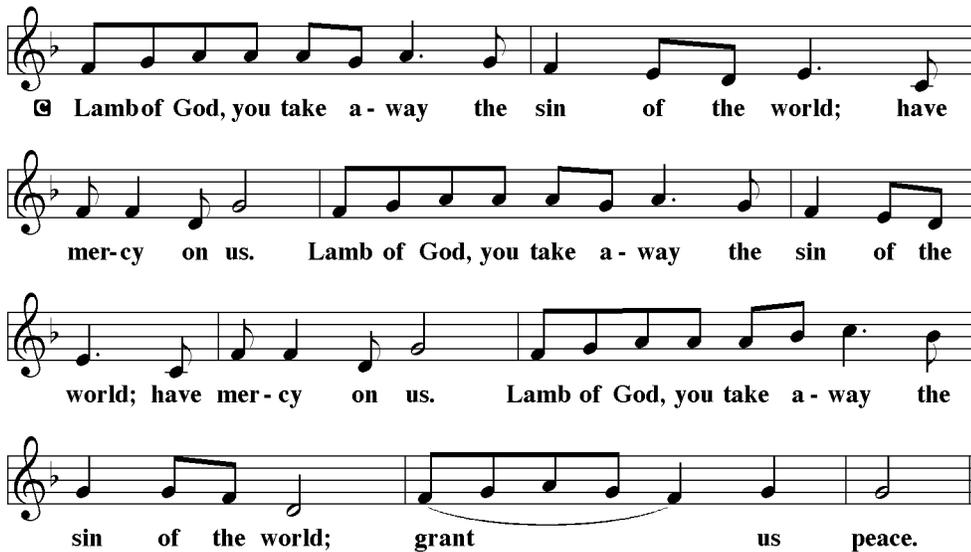
C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed
Our Lord Jesus took bread,
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 all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord as you have taught us, so now we 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION *All Are Welcome to Receive.*

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.*

P All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

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. We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

***HYMN For the Fruit of All Creation WOV, “Blue”, 760**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the Good News!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Call of the Trumpets Franklin Ritter

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READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith Formation 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!



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, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller.



WORSHIP LEADERS July 23, 2023

Lector	Candy Dewar
Communion Assistants	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist	Sam Robinson
Ushers	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	July Wanda Fortin and Wendy Wentzel



OUR STEWARDSHIP July 16, 2023

Regular Offering	\$1,610.00
Plate Offerings	7.00
Lutheran World Relief Kits	25.00
Family Promise Hosting	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,667.00



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
In Loving Memory of Frank Doebler and in Honor of Mary Lou Doebler by Karen Mariano.
In Honor of my son, Robert Millikan on his birthday by Sally Bjornstad.



SIGHT AND SOUND “MOSES” BUS TRIP, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Our bus to see “Moses” at the Sight and Sound Theatre has been filled! The cost of the trip is \$139.00/person and checks should be made payable to Cheryl Williams by August 13, 2023. The bus departs from Beiter's Parking Lot (540 Montgomery Pike, Williamsport) 6 am on September 20. Please park your car in the West End Parking Lot of Beiter's. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Cheryl Williams (570-327-1627).



+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.



Monday, July 24, -
Sunday, July 30, 2023

Monday, July 24
Tuesday, July 25
Wednesday, July 26
Thursday, July 27
Friday, July 28
Saturday, July 29
Sunday, July 30

Assembling and Mailing out the "Lion"

Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Edward Gair	July 24	Shirley Hill	July 25
Gail Greninger	July 26	Ann Kuntz	July 27
John Bower	July 28	Matthew Fortin	July 29

(Birthdays this week July 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29)

ANNIVERSARY

No Anniversaries this week

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week at Our Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

COMMEMORATIONS



Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.



James the Great (anon)

James, Apostle

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).



Bach



Schütz



Handel

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians

Friday, July 28, 2023

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.



Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.



Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and eventually king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.