The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2023

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 note:

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

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

PRELUDE O God beyond All Praising Robert Buckley Farlee

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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.

A brief silence.

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, has forgiven 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Son

Amen.

*HYMN God Is Here

WOV "Blue", 719

*THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING......Isaiah 45:1-7

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:

2I will go before you

and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron,

3I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,

the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

4For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,

I surname you, though you do not know me.

5I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

6so that they may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

7I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

1Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

3Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

4For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods.

5As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

6Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

7Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

8Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.

9Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

THE SECOND READING...... 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers

and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 750 that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you

hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN** We Give Thee But Thine Own

LBW, "Green", 410

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

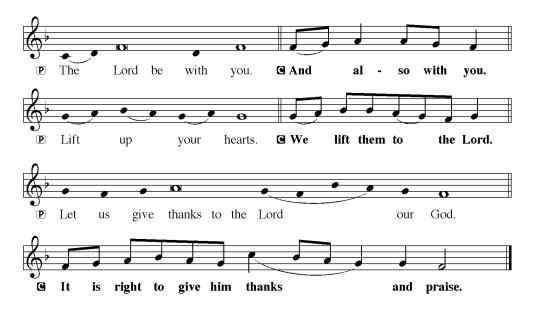
After each petition, "God of Grace/Hear Our Prayer"

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. The ministers and congregation greet each other.

*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



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.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

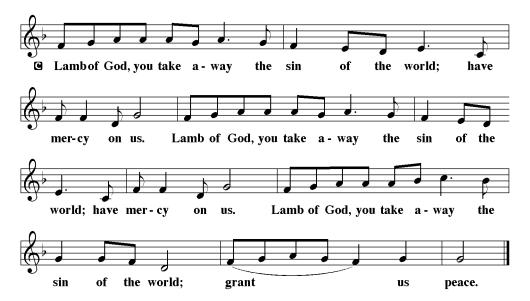
In the night in which he was betrayed Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup 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

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,
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



*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.

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

*THE BLESSING

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

Amen.

*HYMN God, Whose Glory Knows No Ending LBW, "Green", 408

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace, God is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE God of Grace and God of Glory 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, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny

Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Evelyn Bastian, the nation of Israel and all nations in the Middle East in the peace process.

WORSHIP LEADERS October 22, 2023



Lector	8:00AM 10:30AM	Vicki Haussmann Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8:00AM 10:30AM	Drew Haussmann Dan Zeigler and Carl Albright
Guest Organist		Carol Waltz
Ushers	8:00AM 10:30AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller Tim Maggs, captain Carl Heiber, Charles Kuntz
Altar Guild	October	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



WELCOME CAROL!

Today we welcome Carol Waltz and thank her for sharing her talents with us as we worship.

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!





OUR STEWARDSHIP October 15, 2023

Regular Offering	\$2,510.00
Plate Offerings	10.00
Harvest Home	20.00
Sunday School Offering	5.00
Memorials	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2570.00

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. Ress by Ruth, Grant and Lisa Rees.



Redeemer's November Dinner



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be baking brownies for Redeemer's November dinner. We are in need of brownie mixes or brownies that have already been prepared. Mixes may be placed on the table in the Narthex. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you wish to donate a pan of brownies.



October is "Socktober"

at

Sojourner Truth Ministries Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 29, 2023.

In addition to serving more than 600 meals each week, STM also holds an afterschool program each week. Their after-school program is in need

of healthy snacks for the children who attend.

- Snacks and juice boxes may be placed on the table in the Narthex closet.
- Also, in October new socks for men, women and children are being accepted. Donations of socks may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Mother and Child Collection For Saving Grace Shelter

Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 29, 2023.



Please consider donating one or more items on this list to help women and children during a difficult time in their lives. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

 Moisturizing Body Wash, Body Lotion, Bath Poufs, Moisturizing Soap / Dove, Razors, Shaving Cream/Gel, Feminine Hygiene Items/Tampons, Brushes and Combs, Adult Toothpaste, Toothbrushes for Women and Children, Tearless Shampoo, Children's Toothpaste, Children's Body Lotion, Children's Body Wash and Chap Sticks.



A LITTLE HELP PLEASE.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in sending Autumn / Halloween greetings. Next Sunday look for an array of addressed cards in the Narthex. Please take a card or two, include a cherry greeting to a Special Concern person(s,) affix a stamp and mail it in time for Halloween. Thank you for any help you can give.



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 (<u>bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>). 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

Spaghetti Dinner



New Covenant UCC Saturday, November 4 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dine In or Take Out Ages 12 to Adult - \$12.00 Ages 3 - 12 - \$6.00

Under 3 – Free

Tickets can be purchased until October 29, at the church office or by calling 570-326-3308. Tickets must be purchased before the dinner.

All proceeds benefit New Covenant's Blessing Boxes



THANKS

Thank You to everyone who brought food for Harvest Home Sunday, Oct 15. Folks who are food insecure turn to the United Churches Food Pantry when in need. These are the people you help so generously. When fuel bills start to arrive the need is much greater. Please remember to

bring non-perishable food and hygiene items throughout the year. A box ix located in the narthex.

Worship and Music Committee



October begins a time of change and of looking forward. Looking forward to a new calendar year at St. Mark's means it is time for our Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship Sunday will be All Saints' Sunday, November 5. Please start thinking about how you wish to pledge support in and for the ministry of Christ through St. Mark's in 2024.

Upcoming projects in this new calendar year will include repair to the roof, a new sound/video system, a new air conditioner for the second floor of the parish house, pipe organ repair, plus the ongoing expenses of cleaning and salaries for paid staff. We have a beautiful building and organ as well as a wonderful staff. Take some time to discern and pray how Christ is asking you to support the work of His church in 2024 through your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

All Saints' Sunday celebrates the faithful. May the faithfulness of others inspire us to faithfully serve Christ through St. Mark's in 2024 and beyond.



November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child as it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! We will be packing our shoeboxes in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, November 12th**, **after late service**. 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! This promises to be a fun hour with the goal of packing at least 60 boxes to be sent out to children in need.

In addition to our packing event, we will be collecting monetary donations during the month of November. Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$10.00 donation to help cover the cost of shipping each shoebox. This \$10.00 donation also helps Samaritan's Purse train and equip local churches to use the Ministry Partner Guide. This resource teaches churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.

Lastly, please pray that the shoeboxes we pack and send bless the child who receives it with the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child. How exciting that we at St. Mark's are able to share the Good News around the World!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



LWR - thanks to all who donated to the Lutheran World Relief

17

effort. St. Marks sent 60 school kits, 9 baby kits, 8 cloth kits, and 10 personal care kits. Great job!



Just a reminder that year-end giving statements for 2023 will be issued during the month of January 2024. If in the interim if you would like to have a year-to-date statement of your contributions, please contact the church office

(570-323-4619), and our Financial Secretary, Herb Poff, will print a copy and mail it to you. As always, your continuing support of St. Mark's ministry is sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

Deadline for November "Lion" is October 25, 2023. We will gather and get the "Lion" ready for sending out on Monday, October 30, 2023.

The Deadline for the December "Lion" will be November 22, 2023 and will gather to get the newsletter out for mailing on November 28, 2023. The busy season is starting so please remember deadlines for the newsletter and weekly bulletins. Thank you to all who help make the newsletter and bulletins so informative.

FAMILY PROMISE



Thanks to all who participated in providing dinners for the families at the Family Promise house. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by the families. If you want to contribute to Family Promise to help defray the cost of providing the breakfast and lunch items, please use a pew envelope and write Family Promise on the memo line of your check. Our next hosting is in December. God bless you all.



HARVEST PARADE AND PARTY FOR LITTLE LAMBS

On Wednesday, October 25, 2023, the halls and grounds (weather permitting) will have a parade of

little animals to celebrate the Harvest. The little ones from Little Lambs will dress up and march around to celebrate and have a Harvest Party. If you would like to participate and pass out treats please join us at 9:15 AM for the start of the parade.



Monday, October 23, -Sunday, October 29, 2023

Monday, October 23 Tuesday, October 24 Wednesday, October 25

WCC Rehearsal 7PM FH

Thursday, October 26 Friday, October 27 Saturday, October 28 Sunday, October 29 Deadline for November "Lion" Harvest Parade and Party for Little Lambs 9:15AM

Reformation Sunday

Holy Communion 8:00 AM
Holy Communion 10:00 AM
Worship and Music Committee

BIRTHDAYS

Charles Kuntz	October 24	Richard Miller	October 24
Hannah Haussmann	October 26	Kathy Eshelman	October 27
Andrew Haussmann	October 28	Barbara Thomas	October 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Audrey and Jake Comerford October 27

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday. October 29

Worship and Music Committee

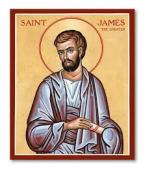
Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week at Our Church" please

COMMEMORATIONS

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

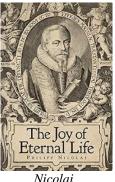
Monday, October 23, 2023



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, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Thursday, October 26, 2023







Heermann

Gerhardt

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.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Saturday, October 28, 2023



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.