

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 28, 2024**

**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 seek, "To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



**An Order for Holy Communion 8 am and 10:30 am  
(Setting One, LBW)**

**Please Note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use; face masks are optional; offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**Bold print indicates Congregation.**

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

*All may make the sign of cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/Stand*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**

**dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing                      LBW, "Green", 559**

**\*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



Ⓐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Ⓑ 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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 111**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your | works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;  
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to | those who fear you,  
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power | of your works  
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;  
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;  
holy and awesome | is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- | dures  
forever.**

**THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

1Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; 3but anyone who loves God is known by him.

4Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.

**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.

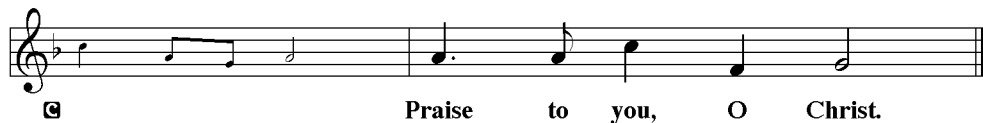
**\*THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:21-28**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

21[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN**                    **Rise, Shine, You People**

**LBW, “Green”, 393**

**\*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 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 OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition: God of Grace/Receive 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**



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. Ⓑ And al - so with you.



Ⓐ Lift up your hearts. Ⓑ We lift them to the Lord.



Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.  
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your 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 for 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**



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**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Amen.**

*All Are Welcome to Receive. Please come forward as directed by ushers. Take a small cup from the tray and proceed to receive the bread from Pastor Vasey. After receiving the bread, proceed to receive the wine from two stations by way of a pouring chalice. After receiving the wine, please return to your pews by way of the side aisles.*

**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**

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The God who names you, claims you, dwells in you,

Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**Jesus, Shall Reign**

**LBW, "Green", 530**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, you are God's Beloved

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

+++++

*Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...*

*Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.*

*sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.*

*“One License” A-738528.*

+++++



**Prayer List:** Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, 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, Mike Ford, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Eileen Montgomery.

**WORSHIP LEADERS January 28, 2024**

Lector	8:00AM	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30AM	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Dan Zeigler & Carl Albright
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Mike Jensen (captain), Pam Jensen, Shelby and Gary Weber
Altar Guild	January	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



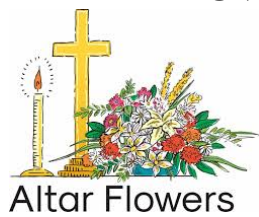
**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith Formation has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

**OUR STEWARDSHIP January 21, 2024**

Regular Offering	\$2,317.00
Plate Offering	22.00
Initial Offering	25.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	50.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,414.00</b>



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



- +In Honor of medical professionals and humanitarian workers who travel to war-torn areas to care for those in need by the Hausmann Family.
- +In Loving Memory of my husband, George Bjornstad by Sally Bjornstad.

**The Gospel According to Mark**

The Faith Formation Committee will offer a Bible study from the Gospel of St.



Mark during Wednesdays in Lent. Mark offers a day-by-day account of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter morning. One resource we consulted, which studies Mark’s account, is *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Harper, 2006).

All are welcome! The study begins Wednesday, February 21, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall and concludes Wednesday, March 20.

## Go Green for Gifting



Have more Christmas gift bags, new greeting cards and tissue paper than you can use? Donate them to the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee for gifting the ladies of CM-6 and others in 2024. We can also find homes for extra 2024 calendars and day planners. Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

P.S. Now is the perfect time to pack up those holiday decorations you no longer need and donate them to the annual Fall Sale.

## LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 14).

### TWO WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

*12:10 pm in our Chapel (Ashes and Holy Communion)*

*7 pm in our Nave (Ashes and Communion)*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



St. Mark's will observe "Shrove Tuesday" (February 13) with our third annual "Fastnacht Day" or Donut Day event. We invite everyone to join us in Fellowship Hall beginning at \*\*\*5:30 for light refreshments and Fastnachts (of course!). Our event will include gathering in the 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. This promises to be a day of fun and meaning as we prepare to begin our Lenten pilgrimage in anticipation of the Easter Season. If you would like a ride, please contact Vicki Hausmann at (570) 447-3263. We are happy to pick up and take anyone home! We look forward to seeing you!

\*\*\* Please note the earlier start time of our event this year. This is to accommodate those who would also like to attend the Williamsport Symphony which begins at 7:30 PM. There will be plenty of time to attend both events. We look forward to seeing you!



Monday, January 29, -  
 Sunday, February 4, 2024



Monday, January 29	Little Lambs Meeting	ML	12:15PM
	WCC Rehearsal	FH	7:00PM
Tuesday, January 30			
Wednesday, January 31			
Thursday, February 1			
Friday, February 2			
Saturday, February 3			
Sunday, February 4	<b>Holy Communion</b>		<b>8:00AM</b>
	<b>Holy Communion</b>		<b>10:30AM</b>

## BIRTHDAYS

Devin Owen                      January 30

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](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

### Next Week

Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Finance Committee meeting at 5:30PM in the Middle Lounge

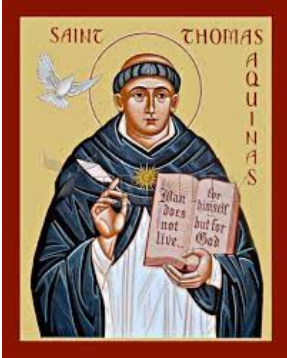
Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

City Pastor’s Lunch at 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge

Evangelism and Fellowship Meeting in the Middle Lounge at 5:30PM

## COMMEMORATIONS

### **Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274**



*Sunday, January 28, 2024*

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

### **Presentation of Our Lord**

*Friday, February 2, 2024*



Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865**

*Saturday, February 3, 2024*



A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.