

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 2024
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 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 Jesus we see the hand of God, raising a sick woman to new life and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we too are raised to serve God by serving others.

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 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LBW, Green, 543)**

***THE GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV, "Blue", 779)

On Eagle's Wings

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea- gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

fear; un- der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv - en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea- gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us ministers of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 40:21-31

21Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

23who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

27Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

1Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!
2**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,**
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.
3The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.
4**The LORD counts the number | of the stars**
and calls them all | by their names.
5Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
6**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,**
but casts the wicked | to the ground.
7Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
8**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds**
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the
mountains.
9God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
10**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,**
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,
11but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love.
20c| **Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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 1:29-39**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

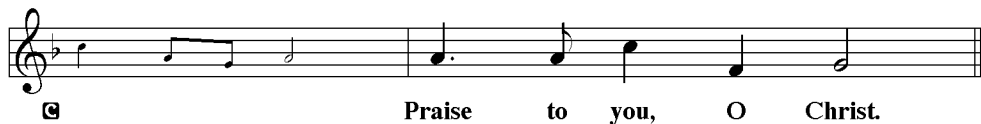
²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by

the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” 38He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” 39And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMM Precious Lord, Take My Hand WOV, “Green” 731**

***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.

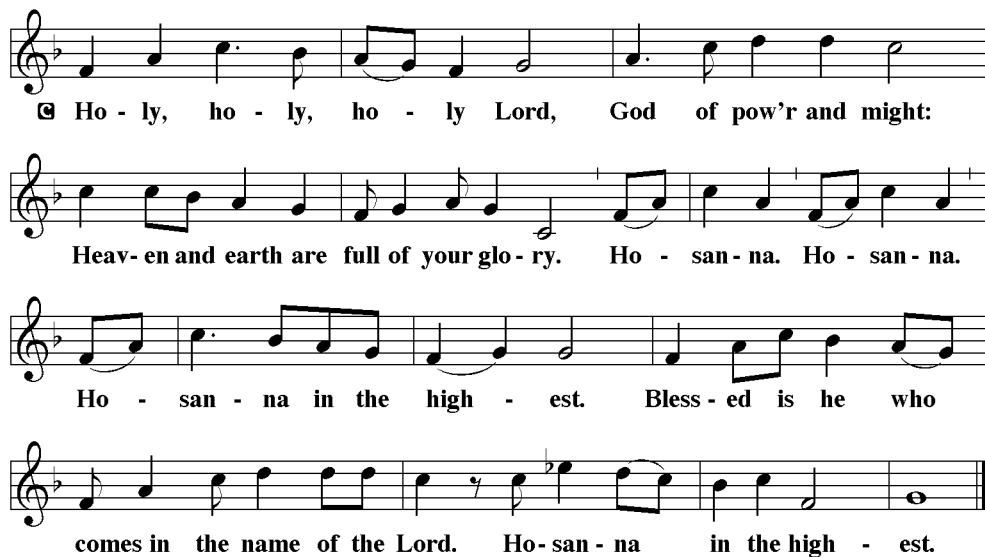


☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☑ 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**

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.

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

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Amen.

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**

Let All Things Now Living

LBW, "Green", 557

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, you are God's Beloved

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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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 Hausmann, Kristin Rehm,

Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Eileen Montgomery.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+In Loving Memory of Harold D. Hershberger, Jr. by the Jensen Family.

+In Honor of our Saint Mark's Family



WORSHIP LEADERS

February 4, 2024

Lector	8:00AM	Candy Dewar
	10:30AM	Ralph Zeigler
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	February	Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad and Sarah Young



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!

Stewardship clip art

OUR STEWARDSHIP January 28, 2024

Regular Offering	\$2,140.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Flowers Memorials / Tributes	35.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,205.00



Monday, February 5, -
 Sunday, February 11, 2024



Monday, February 5	Finance Committee	ML	5:30PM
	WCC Rehearsal	FH	7:00PM
Tuesday, February 6	City Pastor's Lunch	ML	1:00PM
	Evan and Fellowship	ML	5:30PM
Wednesday, February 7			
Thursday, February 8	Faith Formation	ML	10:45AM
Friday, February 9			
Saturday, February 10			
Sunday, February 11	Holy Communion		8:00AM
	Holy Communion		10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Reitz	February 6	Margie Doebler	February 8
Joseph Baur	February 10	Gloria Greevy	February 10

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

- 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.

- **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!

- The Faith Formation Committee will offer a *Bible study from the Gospel of St. Mark* during Wednesdays in Lent. All are welcome! The study begins Wednesday, February 21, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall and concludes Wednesday, March 20.

COMMEMORATIONS

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597



Monday, February 5, 2024

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.



Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Presents "The King of Instruments: The Organ" Concert on February 13, 2024, at Community Arts Center.

Event Details:

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Community Arts Center (@caclive)

Featured Performers: Marcos Krieger (Guest Organist), Rebekah O'Brien (Assistant Conductor)

Program:

- G.F. Handel: Organ Concerto "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale"
- Camille Saint Saens: Symphony No. 3, "Organ Symphony"
- Jessie Montgomery: "Caught by the Wind"

Tickets are available now and can be purchased at www.CACLIVE.com or by calling (570) 326-2424. Secure your seats for an unforgettable evening of musical excellence.