

**The First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 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 10, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. 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

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

Amen.

Blessed be the one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus, the Christ.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/stand as able. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things, sins known and unknown,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

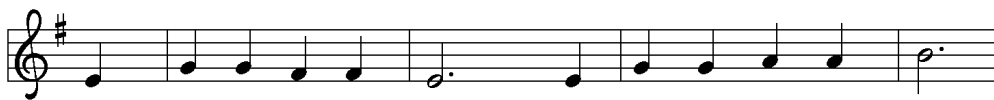
***HYMN Give to Our God Immortal Praise LBW, “Green”, 520**

***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.

***KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin.

Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Genesis 9:8-17

8God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

1To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

2**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

3Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

4**Show me your | ways, O LORD,**
and teach | me your paths.

5Lead me in your | truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
6Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.
 7Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
 remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
 good- | ness, O LORD.
8You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
 9You lead the low- | ly in justice
 and teach the low- | ly your way.
10All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Peter 3:18-22

18Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:9-15**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

12And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

LBW, “Green”, 229

***THE NICENE CREED**

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

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
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**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.

***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 also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

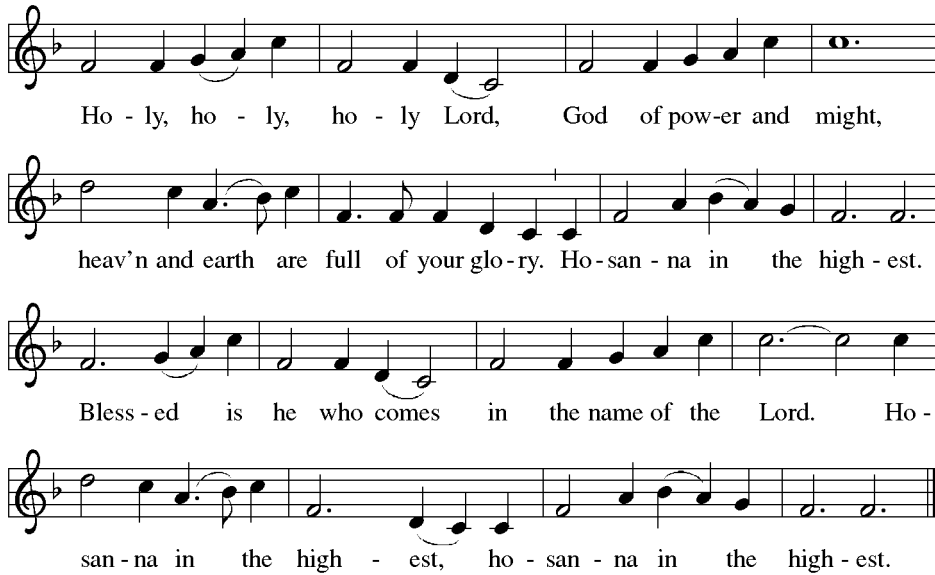
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the lord our God.

It is right to give our 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. You bid

your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things and in him you take delight.

He is our Lord Jesus, who born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people through his suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, and bring the gift of life eternal.

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, 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.”

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts.

Gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your same Spirit that we may praise and glorify you,
through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both now and forever.

Amen.

***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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Jesus offers
bread for the journey, and
a feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome to receive our Lord as he comes to us in this his holy supper.

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

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

***HYMN**

Jesus, Still Lead On

LBW, “Green”, 341

***DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;

be of good courage;

hold fast to that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor all people;

love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, 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, the family of Eilenn Montgomery, and the family of Betty Kaufman.

OUR STEWARDSHIP February 11, 2024

Regular Offering	\$2,262.00
Bulletin Offering	10.00
Initial Offering	15.00
Food Pantry	25.00
Parish Life	43.00
Operation Christmas Child	20.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,375.00

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

WORSHIP LEADERS February 18, 2024

Lector	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Mike Jensen, captain Pam Jensen, Shelby and Gary Weber
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!



The Faith Formation Committee will offer a *Bible study from the Gospel according to Mark* during Wednesdays in Lent. All are welcome! The study begins Wednesday, February 21, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall and concludes Wednesday, March 27.



Bulletin Sponsor

Thank You to this week's bulletin sponsors, Charles and Ann Kuntz



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

- +In Honor of my son and daughter-in-law, Grant and Lisa Ree's anniversary by Ruth Rees
- +In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family



ORDER FORM FOR EASTER LILIES

Please find attached on the last page of today's bulletin, a form for ordering your Easter Lilies.

- 6" Easter Lily 1 bulb \$9.00
- 12" Easter Lily 2 bulbs \$17.00
- 6" (assorted) Asiatic Lily \$9.00

DEADLINE IS MARCH 10



SAVE THE DATE

Bus trip to Sight and Sound to see "Daniel".

September 11, 2024

More information to come soon.

Lenten Service Project Birthday Cake Boxes



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Outreach committees are excited to embark on a Service Project during this season of Lent. The United Churches Food Pantry recently shared that they are unable to use grant money to purchase items such as cake mixes and frosting. This means families are often unable to celebrate birthdays with a birthday cake. We would like to change this by collecting items that will then be assembled into “Birthday Cake Boxes”. A sample of a Birthday Cake Box will be in the Narthex for perusal. However, please do not feel you have to put an entire kit together yourself (although you are certainly more than welcome to do so). Bringing in individual items will allow us to assemble Birthday Cake Boxes toward the end of the Lenten season. Josie from My Party Store has graciously donated 14 packs of candles, so we would love to see if we can assemble 14 (or more) Birthday Cake Boxes.

Items needed are: cake mixes and frosting (any flavor), a case of Sprite (one can of Sprite can be used in place of the eggs and oil), birthday napkins, small party favors, Happy Birthday signs, and sprinkles. The cake pans/lids will be provided by the committee. All items may be placed in the bin in the Narthex.

If you have any questions regarding this Lenten project, please don't hesitate to reach out to Vicki Haussmann. (570) 447-3263. We look forward to sharing a little birthday joy with those in need.



Betty Kaufman (b. December 16, 1928 - d. February 13, 2024)

Condolences can be sent to: Kaufman Family
4901 Egret Road
Venice, FL 34293

Monday, February 19, -
 Sunday, February 25, 2024



Monday, February 19	Church Office Closed	President's Day		
	Church Council Meeting		ML	6:00PM
	WCC Rehearsal		FH	7:00PM
Tuesday, February 20				
Wednesday, February 21	Lenten Bible Study		FH	12:05PM
	Holy Communion	Williamsport Home		2:00PM
Thursday, February 22				
Friday, February 23				
Saturday, February 24				
Sunday, February 25	Holy Communion			8:00AM
	Holy Communion			10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Donna Elkin February 21 Brandon Pelleschi February 21

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546



Sunday, February 18, 2024

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible into German, and creations of a *Small and Large Catechism* 2024 marks the 478TH year of Luther's passing.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156



Friday, February 23, 2024

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Envelope#: _____ Telephone _____

I am ordering:

_____ Asiatic Lilies (6" assorted) @ \$9.00 = \$ _____

_____ Easter Lilies (6" Easter Lily 1 bulb) @ \$9.00 = \$ _____

_____ Easter Lilies (12" Easter Lily 2 bulbs) @ \$17.00 = \$ _____

and/or a *gift for other decorations* = \$ _____

and/or a *donation to Local Hunger* = \$ _____

These are given: (if more room is needed use the back of the card)

In Honor of (living person) _____

In Memory of (deceased) _____

All flower orders *must* be in by March 10, 2024

The flowers will be available for you to take following the late Easter Service.