

**The Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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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

Paul tells us that the promise of God made to Abraham comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life through the gift of faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PRELUDE *Intonazioni D'Organo Primi Tono*

Giovanni Gabrieli

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.

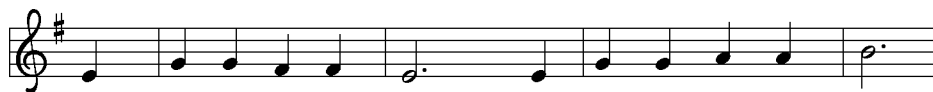
***HYMN The God of Abraham Praise (Stanzas 1-4) Last Page**

***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. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s | line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hid- | den from them;

but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

**²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore
the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

31[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN All My Hope on God is Founded WOV, “Blue”, 782**

***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.*

ANTHEM *O Bone Jesu* Palestrina

*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** **Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus** **LBW, “Green”, 487**

***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** *Terzo e Quarto Tono* Giovanni Gabrieli

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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, Ariel Muhns.

WORSHIP LEADERS February 25, 2024



Lector	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Audrey Albright
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
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, 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!

OUR STEWARDSHIP February 18, 2024

Regular Offering	\$1,802.00
Plate Offerings	100.00
Lent	210.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Memorials	25.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Easters Flowers	45.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,202.00



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of my Mother, Betty Jane Avery by
 Sally Bjornstad
 +In Celebration of our Saint Mark's Family



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, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall.



SAVE THE DATE

Bus trip to Sight and Sound to see "Daniel".
 September 11, 2024
 More information to come soon.



Inside the bulletin is an order form for Easter Flowers. All orders need to be in by March 10, 2024.



**Become
 Part of
 Our
 Church
 Family**

WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? ADULTS WISHING TO UNITE WITH ST. MARK'S IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ARE INVITED TO CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.

Monday, February 26, -
 Sunday, March 3, 2024



Monday, February 26	WCC Rehearsal	FH 7:00PM
Tuesday, February 27		
Wednesday, February 28	Lenten Bible Study	FH 12:05
Thursday, February 29		
Friday, March 1		
Saturday, March 2		
Sunday, March 3	Holy Communion	8:00AM
	Holy Communion	10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Rev. Brian Vasey	February 26	Gary Clark	February 27
Jane Kline	February 29	Ralph Zeigler, Jr.	February 29
Theodore Comerford	March 1		

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

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921



Sunday, February 25, 2024

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633



Friday, March 1, 2024

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, and later became a parish pastor. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church



Saturday, March 2, 2024

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved weekly communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked primarily in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

The God of Abraham Praise



- 1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
- 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
- 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
- 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

- 5 Though nature's strength decay,
 and earth and hell withstand,
 to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
 at your command.
 The wat'ry deep I pass,
 with Jesus in my view,
 and through the howling wilderness
 my way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see,
 with peace and plenty blest;
 a land of sacred liberty
 and endless rest.
 There milk and honey flow,
 and oil and wine abound,
 and trees of life forever grow
 with mercy crowned.
- 7 Before the great Three-One
 the saints exulting stand
 and tell the wonders God has done
 through all their land.
 The list'ning spheres attend
 and swell the growing fame
 and sing the songs which never end,
 the wondrous name.
- 8 The whole triumphant host
 give thanks to God on high.
 “Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
 they ever cry.
 Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
 I join the heav'nly lays:
 to you be glory, might divine,
 and endless praise!