

# **The Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 3, 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 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**

*The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppress us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.*

### **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.**

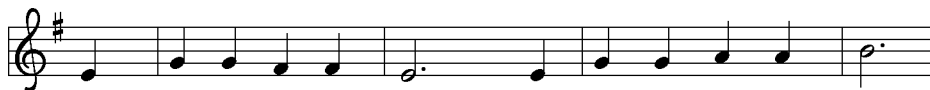
**\*HYMN Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways LBW, “Green”, 486**

**\*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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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.....Exodus 20:1-17**

1God spoke all these words:

2I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3you shall have no other gods before me.

4You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13You shall not murder.

14You shall not commit adultery.

15You shall not steal.

16You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 19

1The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

**2One day tells its tale | to another,**

**and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

3Although they have no | words or language,

and their voices | are not heard,

**4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,**

**where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

5It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

**6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;**

**nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

**8The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;**

**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**

**sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

**12Who can detect one's | own offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get

dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be**

**acceptable | in your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

## THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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.....John 2:13-22**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 18The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” 19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

**\*HYMN**

**Canticle of the Turning**

**Last Page (Page 20)**

## **\*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**            **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**    **LBW, “Green”, 482**

### **\*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**

+++++

*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, 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

## WORSHIP LEADERS March 3, 2024

Lector	8:00AM	Drew Hausmann
	10:30AM	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Dan Zeigler, Carl Albright
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	March	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



**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 25, 2024

Regular Offering	\$2,367.00
Lent	240.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	111.00
Global Mission	50.00
Easter Flowers	96.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	100.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,014.00</b>



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



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
+In Loving Memory of Dr. Ted Larson and Mr. and Mrs.  
Harold Shipman by Mrs. Jane Larson.

+In Loving Memory of our Parents, Dick and Marty Pryor and  
Shuman and Lori Miller by Tom and Becky Miller Pryor.

## Brownie Mixes for Community Dinner



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is providing brownies for this month's community dinner at Redeemer Lutheran Church. We are still in need of brownie mixes or for folks to donate a pan of prepared brownies. Brownie mixes, which can be placed in the Narthex, are needed by next Sunday, March 10. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor for details if you wish to provide prepared brownies. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give.

## Easter Egg Hunt



New Covenant United Church of Christ is hosting a community Easter egg hunt at Lycoming College on Sunday, March 24, 2024. They are in need of the following items to help with hosting.

- Plastic Easter eggs
- Individually wrapped candy
- Fruit snacks
- Snack bars
- Lollipops

Donations may be placed in the Easter box in the Narthex. All donations are needed by Sunday, March 17, 2024.



The Faith Formation Committee's *Bible study from the Gospel according to Mark* continues on Wednesdays in Lent. All are welcome! The study begins, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall.

**Soles4Souls Women's Retreat**  
**Hosted by the Women of Messiah Lutheran Church**  
**South Williamsport, PA**  
**April 13 from 8:30-11:30**



CHANGING THE WORLD  
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

The women of St. Mark's are cordially invited to join others for a morning of learning about this nonprofit that was established in 2006. The speaker will be Abby Yorks from Middleburg, PA. A continental breakfast will be served. Although there is no cost to attend, a free will offering will be taken. Donations will also be accepted of SHOES of all styles, sizes and genders that still have "life" in them and not in need of repair.

Reservations are needed by April 1, 2024. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex along with a tub for donations. More information will be in this month's Lion or speak with Becky Miller Pryor.



**SAVE THE DATE**

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

September 11, 2024

More information to come soon.



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.



We are excited to once again be hosting Easter Hospitality! Please join us March 31 for a variety of tasty treats ~ nothing too big so no worries that Easter dinner will be ruined. We will meet in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (anytime after 9:15 should work well) for refreshments and Christian Fellowship. All are invited and welcome to join in our Easter Celebration! We can't wait to see you!



My Dear St. Mark's Family,  
Thank you so much for celebrating with me my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, February 25 and Monday, February 26. The hospitalities were wonderful (how could they not be when they included “Mr. Sticky” sticky buns, coffee and fellowship). Look out Medicare, here I come! You helped make a milestone birthday one that I will truly remember for quite some time. Very much appreciated!

In Christ,  
Pastor Vasey





## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

### **Wednesday, March 27**

*Bible Study on the Gospel According to Mark concludes (12:10 pm, Fellowship Hall)*

### **Thursday, March 28 (Maundy Thursday)**

*Holy Communion, Chapel, 12:10 pm*

*Holy Communion, Nave, 7:30 pm (Foot Washing and Stripping the Church)*

### **Friday, March 29 (Good Friday)**

*Ecumenical Service, Noon, Redeemer Lutheran Church (Williamsport)*

*Tenebrae, 7:30 pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

### **Saturday, March 30 (Holy Saturday)**

*Easter Vigil, 8 pm (beginning in the Chapel)*

Monday, March 4, -  
 Sunday, March 10, 2024



Monday, March 4	WCC Rehearsal	FH	7:00PM
Tuesday, March 5	Evan and Fellowship Committee	ML	5:30PM
Wednesday, March 6	Lenten Bible Study	FH	12:05
Thursday, March 7			
Friday, March 8			
Saturday, March 9			
Sunday, March 1	Holy Communion		8:00AM
	Holy Communion		10:30AM

### BIRTHDAYS

Trisha Harvey                      March 5

### ANNIVERSARIES

Donna and Gary Clark              March 6

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)

## COMMEMORATIONS

### **Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**



*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

# Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.