

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

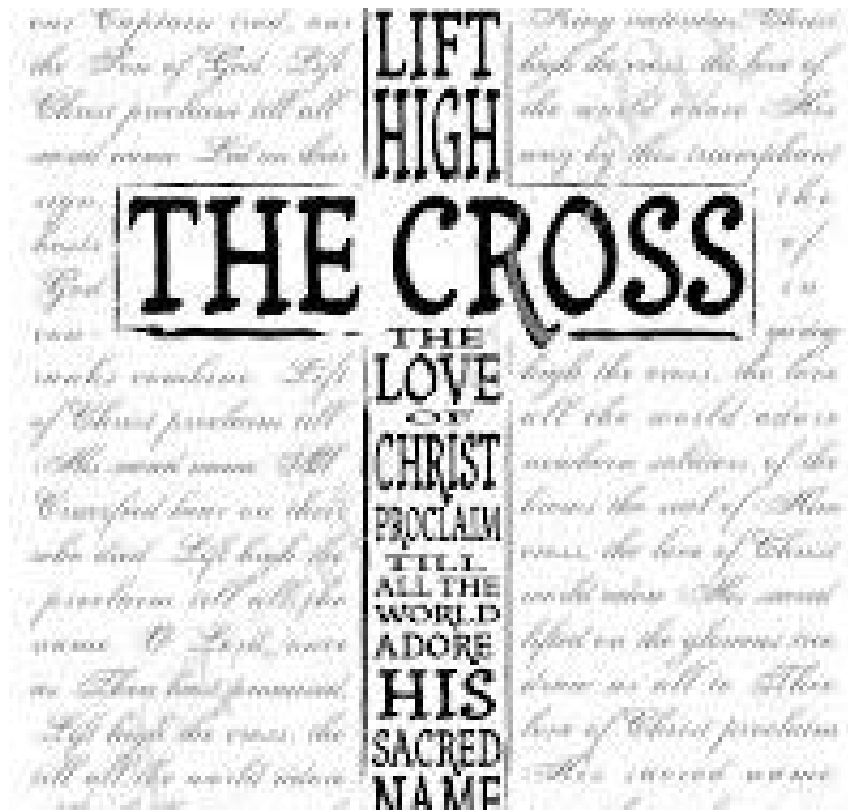
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

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

In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross and that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE *Chaconne in D minor* Anonymous

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**

Lift High the Cross

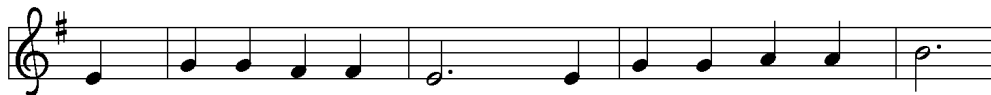
LBW, “Green”, 377

***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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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.....Numbers 21:4-9

4From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

1Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

2**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

3gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

17**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

18They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death’s door.

19**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

20 You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

21 **Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

22 Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

THE SECOND READING.....Ephesians 2:1-10

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 3:14-21**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 14 “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the

Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN There in God's Garden**

WOV, “Blue”, 668

***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**

God of Mercy, God of Light

LBW, “Green”, 425

***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**

Passacaglia in G minor

Anonymous

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March “LION” QR CODE



Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, 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 10, 2024



Lector	8:00 AM	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Karen Marino
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00 AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30 AM	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Heiber, Charles Kuntz
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 March 3, 2024

Regular Offering	\$3,897.00
Plate Offering	70.00
Lent	125.00
Miscellaneous	45.00
Parish Life	25.00
Organ Fund	50.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	35.00
Synod Benevolence	25.00
Easter Flowers	78.00



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

GRAND TOTAL \$4,350.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Robert and Anna Kuntz and Marty Kuntz by Ann and Charles Kuntz. (March 3, 2024)
+In Loving Memory of Elmer D. and Eva F. Hunt, William W. and Fredericia M. Bastian by Romain and Evelyn Bastian.
+In Loving Memory of our aunts, Roxie Larson and Marian Larson by Nancy and Ernie Larson.

Easter Egg Hunt



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

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.

Soles4Souls Information Workshop Hosted by the Women of Messiah Lutheran Church South Williamsport, PA

Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 am-11:30 am



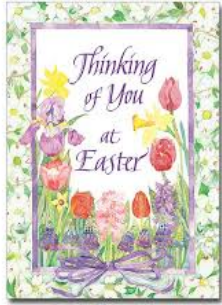
Members of St. Mark's are cordially invited to join others for a morning of learning about this nonprofit that was established in 2006. The speaker will be Abby Yorks from Middleburg, PA. A continental breakfast will be served. Although there is no cost to attend, a free will offering will be taken. 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 is in the Narthex along with a tub for donations. More information is in this month's Lion or speak with

Becky Miller Pryor.

Easter Greetings



Next Sunday, March 17, 2024, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will have Easter cards available in the Narthex for members of the congregation to send to our Special Concern Folks. Cards will be available before and after each service. Please take a card or two, add a cheery message, and affix a stamp and mail in time for Easter. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.



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.



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 (any time 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!

Monday, March 11, -
 Sunday, March 17, 2024



Monday, March 11	WCC Rehearsal	FH	7:00PM
Tuesday, March 12			
Wednesday, March 13	Lenten Bible Study	FH	12:05PM
Thursday, March 14	Faith Formation	ML	10:45AM
Friday, March 15			
Saturday, March 16			
Sunday, March 17	Holy Communion		8:00AM
	Holy Communion		10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Kinney	March 11	Robert Jones	March 16
Dinah Labenberg	March 16		

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



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.

COMMEMORATIONS

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Sunday, March 10, 2024



Tubman



Truth

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking

the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Tuesday, March 12, 2024



Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected Bishop of Rome in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings.

Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

Help Wanted

LECTORS

Maundy Thursday	March 28	Chapel	12:10PM
	March 28	Nave	7:30PM
Good Friday (Tenebrae)	March 29	Nave	7:30PM
Easter Vigil (Holy Sat.)	March 30	Nave	8:00PM

USHERS

Maundy Thursday	March 28	Chapel	12:10PM
	March 28	Nave	7:30PM
Good Friday (Tenebrae)	March 29	Nave	7:30PM
Easter Vigil (Holy Sat.)	March 30	Nave	8:00PM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Maundy Thursday	March 28	Chapel	12:10PM
	March 28	Nave	7:30PM
Easter Vigil (Holy Sat.)	March 30	Nave	8:00PM