

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 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

Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the 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**

O Christ the Same

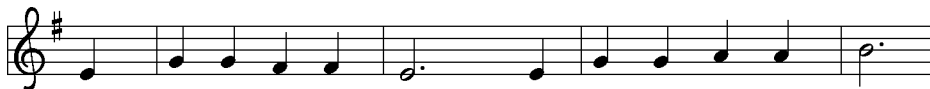
WOV, "Blue", 778

***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-lemn 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.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1-12

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

2**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,**
and cleanse me | from my sin.

3For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

4**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;**
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

5Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother’s womb.

6**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,**
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

8**Let me hear | joy and gladness;**
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

9Hide your face | from my sins,
 and blot out | all my wickedness.
 10**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,**
and renew a right spir- | it within me.
 11Cast me not away | from your presence,
 and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
 12**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation**
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

THE SECOND READING.....Hebrews 5:5-10

5Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”;

6as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
 according to the order of Melchizedek.”

7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

20Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

God Is Here

WOV, “Blue”, 719

***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 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing LBW, “Green”, 259**

***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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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 17, 2024

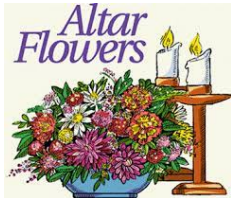
Lector	8:00AM	Candy Dewar
	10:30AM	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Mike Jensen, captain Pam Jensen, Shelby and Gary Weber
Altar Guild	March	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

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!

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:



+In Honor of Family and to the Glory of God by Karen and Steve Mariano

+In Loving Memory of my parents, Allen and Josephine Malick by Cheryl Williams



OUR STEWARDSHIP March 10, 2024

Regular Offering	\$3,272.00
Plate Offerings	10.00
Lent	135.00

Food Pantry	50.00	
Parish Life	34.00	
Capital Fund	10.00	
Synod Benevolence	10.00	
Easter Flowers	226.00	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00	
GRAND TOTAL		\$3,797.00

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



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee have Easter cards available in the Narthex for members of the congregation to send to our Special Concern Folks. 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.



March "LION" QR CODE



The Bus Trip to see "Daniel"

at Sight and Sound Theatre

Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The cost of the trip, which includes the show, meal and bus fare is \$153.00/person. We will depart from the lower west end of Beiter's Parking Lot (Williamsport) at 6 am sharp. Please contact Cheryl Williams (570) 327-1627 to reserve space and to answer any questions concerning the trip.



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!



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 18, -
Sunday, March 24, 2024**



Monday, March 18	WCC Rehearsal	FH	7:00PM
	Council Meeting	ML	6:00PM
Tuesday, March 19			
Wednesday, March 20	Lenten Bible Study	FH	12:05PM
	Holy Communion Williamsport Home		2:00PM
Thursday, March 21			
Friday, March 22			
Saturday, March 23			
Sunday, March 24	Sunday of the Passion		
	Holy Communion		8:00AM
	Holy Communion		10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Diane Bardsley March 18 Gary Weber March 24

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



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

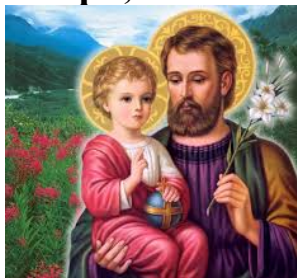
WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? ADULTS WISHING TO UNITE WITH ST. MARK'S IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ARE INVITED TO CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.



COMMEMORATIONS
Patrick, Bishop and Missionary to Ireland, died 461
Sunday, March 17, 2024

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus



Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

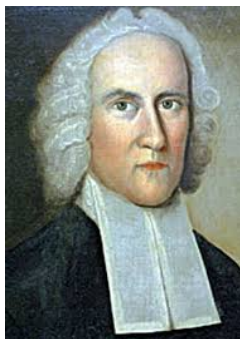
Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556



Thursday, March 21, 2024

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of Church Reforms.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758



Friday, March 22, 2024

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.