

The Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

March 24, 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

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation for Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people.

PRELUDE All Glory Laud and Honor Anonymous

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***ACCLAMATION**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

***PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

MARK 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter

Glory to you O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they

allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN All Glory, Laud and Honor LBW, “Green”, 108**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him

as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 50:4-9a

4The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

5The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

6I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

7The Lord GOD helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

she who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

9aIt is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 31:9-16

9Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

12**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**

I am as useless as a | broken pot.

13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

14**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You | are my God.

15My times are | in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

16**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**

save me in your | steadfast love.”

THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 2:5-11

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

7but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

9Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,
10so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

The congregation remains seated until Mark 15:22 (Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), at which point the congregation stands.

1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” 10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” 13They shouted back, “Crucify him!” 14Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” 15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they

put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). *The congregation stands.* ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HOMILY

***HYMN Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed LBW, “Green”, 98**

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son 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.

All may greet one another with these or similar words.

ANTHEM When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Arr. Gilbert Martin

***THE 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, transforming death into life. And so, with all 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

whom you sent in the fulness of time to redeem the world.
He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
being born in our likeness.

He humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

He took upon himself sins and death and offered himself,
a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

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 in 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.

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

Almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN** **Ride On, Ride On in Majesty** **LBW, “Green”, 121**

***DISMISSAL**

Hosanna! Go in peace!

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE Sarabande GF Handel

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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, the Family of Beverly Best

OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 17, 2024



Regular Offering	\$2,773.00
Plate Offering	20.00
Easter	200.00
Lent	215.00
Miscellaneous	225.00
World Hunger	100.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Global Mission	100.00
Family Promise Hosting	30.00
Easter Flowers	142.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3905.00



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP 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

Easter Services

Saturday March 30, 2024 Easter Vigil 8:00PM

Sunday March 31, 2024 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30AM



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.



“That Daniel is a great guy. That’s the most fun
I ever had with a person without eating them!”



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!

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 shoe donations. More information is in this month's Lion or speak with Becky Miller Pryor.



WORSHIP LEADERS March 24, 2024

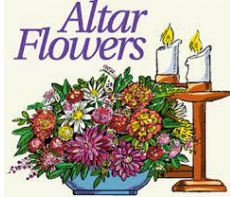
Lector	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00AM	Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain
		Glenn Yaple and Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	March	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

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 Loving Memory of our Loved ones by Gary and Donna Clark
+In Celebration of our St. Mark’s Family by the Flower Memorial Fund



+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.



Registrations are being accepted for the 19th Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic, which benefits Camp Mount Luther of Mifflinburg. Golfers are invited to participate in the tournament to be held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. Last year, over \$15,000 was raised because of this event. Shotgun start time is 12:30 p.m. Registration with lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Sponsorships as well as individual registrations are currently being solicited. To get a registration form or [register online](#), or for more information, go to the camp's website at www.campmountluther.org or contact the camp office at (570) 922-1587.



Monday, March 25, -
 Sunday, March 31, 2024



Monday, March 25	WCC Rehearsal	FH 7:00PM
Tuesday, March 26		
Wednesday, March 27	Lenten Bible Study	FH 12:05PM
Thursday, March 28	Maundy Thursday	Chapel 12:05PM Nave 7:30PM
Friday, March 29	Good Friday	Redeemer Lutheran Noon Tenebrae Nave 7:00PM
Saturday, March 30	Easter Vigil (Begin in Court Card)	Nave 8:00PM
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday	
	Holy Communion	8:00AM
	Holy Communion	10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Leah Hausmann	March 25	Sara Larson	March 25
Jonathan Bower	March 27	Sandra Edler	March 28
Tyler Bower	March 29	Carl Hieber	March 29

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



March “Lion” QR Code

COMMEMORATIONS

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980



Sunday, March 24, 2024

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord



Monday, March 25, 2024

Nine months before Christmas Day we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824



Friday, March 29, 2024

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.