

## Reformation Sunday

October 27, 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)



## An Order for Holy Communion 8 am and 10:30 am (Setting Two, *Lutheran Book of 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.**

***HYMNS ARE PRINTED IN THE BACK OF OUR BULLETIN AS WELL AS HYMNALS (LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book)***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

### **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for forgiveness.

*Kneel/stand*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
our sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

**LBW, "Green", 229**

**\*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.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Ⓑ Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo- ple of God. Pow- er and rich - es and wis- dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless- ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless- ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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.....Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

5God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;

God shall help it at the | break of day.

6**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**

**God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

7The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

8**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**

**what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

9behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

10**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**

**I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

11The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 3:19-28**

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

## \*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*THE GOSPEL.....John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”  
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

\*HYMN **Built on a Rock**

LBW, “Green”, LBW, 365

## \*THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “God of grace/Hear our prayer”.*

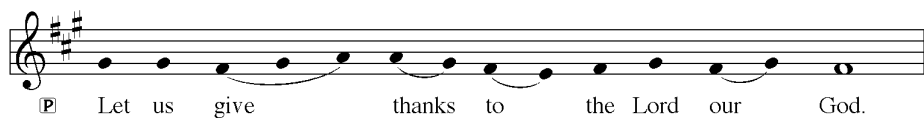
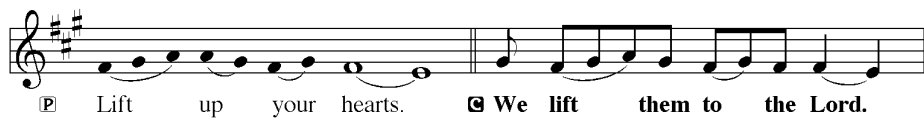
**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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 our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In your great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
who on the cross opened his arms to all,  
and by his resurrection brought eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: "Take and eat;  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."  
Again after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks,  
and gave it to 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.”

Remembering, therefore,  
his death, resurrection and ascension  
we await his coming in glory.  
Pour out upon us  
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills  
of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood  
of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom with you  
and the Holy Spirit  
be all honor and glory,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**



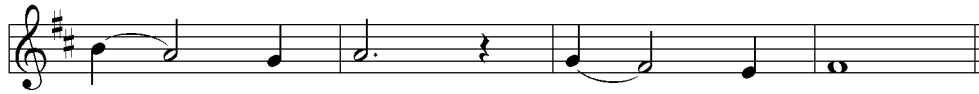
☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

### \*INVITATION

Come, all are welcome to dine with our Lord. **Amen.**

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.*

*Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread*

### \*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

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others

and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation LBW, "Green", 367**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus  
**Thanks be to God.**

**THE POSTLUDE**

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, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, Joseph Baur, John Tartline, Bob Miller, Carl Hieber, Ann Kuntz, Donna Baker, Gary Weber, Tom Waffenschmidt, Phil and Barb Thomas, Steve Dewar, victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Zeigler family, the Lloyd family.

**THANK YOU RAY HUFF!** Today we welcome Ray Huff as our preacher/presider. Pastor Vasey is presiding at his granddaughter's baptism in Lewisburg. Thank you Ray for bringing the message and presiding today at Christ's Holy Supper!

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

*From Herb Poff's figures.*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**October 27, 2024**

Lector

8 am

10:30 am

Communion Assistants       8 am  
                                     10:30 am

Ushers                           8 am                       Herb Poff and Richard Miller  
                                     10:30 am

Organist   Sam Robinson

Altar Guild (OCTOBER)                       Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Stewardship Sunday is All Saints Sunday (Nov. 3). Please take some time and be thinking about your commitment to Christ through the ministry of St. Mark's for 2025. Upcoming projects include: Roof replacement, organ upkeep and maintenance, the replacement of the dossal, salaries, utilities and “everyday expenses”. Your pledge is one way you can say, “Thank you” to God for what our Lord has first given us. Please, for the ministry and welfare of St. Mark's, give generously.

**CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS**

End of year Congregational Reports of all church committees and ministries are due on or before October 31. Please file reports with the Church Office. Thank you!

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:**

Sunday, October 27                       Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am  
  Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, October 28                       Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, October 29                       Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm  
  Lloyd Viewing/Funeral 10 am

Wednesday, October 30                       Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Thursday, October 31                       Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Little Lambs Costume Parade, 9:30 am

Friday, November 1                      Church Office Closed  
Saturday, November 2                  Church Office Closed

## **BIRTHDAYS**

+ 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) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). 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.

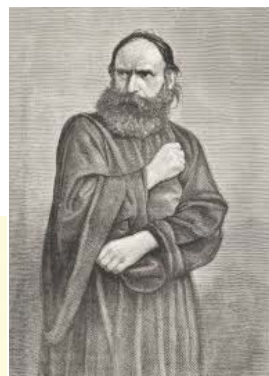
To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the "Lion", updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbour@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Simon and Jude, Apostles**

*Monday, October 28, 2024*

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.



## **Reformation Day**

*Thursday, October 31, 2024*

*Eve of All Saints' (All Hallows' Eve)*

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.



## **All Saints Day**

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. St. Mark's will celebrate All Saints' on Sunday, November 3.



## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is  
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -  
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
 5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
 dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's Word where he this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
 prom - ise is bring - ing: I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

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