# St. Mark's Lutheran Church The Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 <a href="mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org">stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452) Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor <a href="mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org">bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>



# Holy Communion (A Setting for Lent) 8 am and 10:30 am

#### 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: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book \*Please stand as you are able.

#### INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

#### **PRELUDE**

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ⅓, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's forgiveness and abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. Kneel/Stand.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

## \*HYMN The Church's One Foundation

LBW, "Green," 369

#### \*THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

#### \*KYRIE



## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

## And also with you.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of 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.

## 

16 Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

17 who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

18 Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

21 the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 126**

When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion, then were we like | those who dream.

# 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

3 The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

4 Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

5 Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

## THE SECOND READING......Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] 46 If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

## \*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord your God, for he his gracious and merciful. Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## \*THE GOSPEL.....John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#### THE SERMON

\*HYMN Take My Life, that I May Be

LBW, "Green," 406

#### \*THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us 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, "Lord, in your mercy/Receive 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

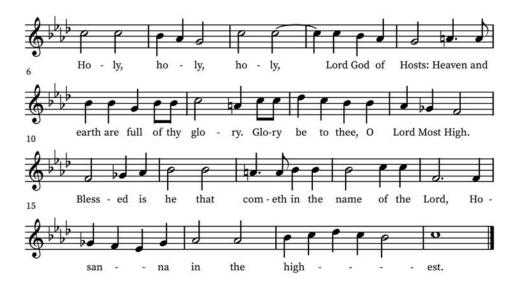
Lift up your hearts.

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 with 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:



Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness 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 our sin, and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sake of the whole world.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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.

In remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ we proclaim the mystery of faith:

## Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

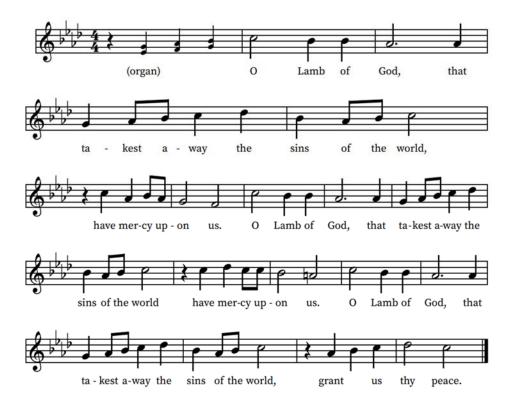
By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

#### \*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who are 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



#### \*INVITATION

All who are hungry come! The feast of grace is spread!

## Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way and kneel (stand) at the rail. 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

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## \*BLESSING

The blessing of God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

\*HYMN My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

LBW, "Green," 294

#### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

#### THE POSTLUDE

#### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, 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, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible and Helen Schramm.

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for March 30, 2025**

Regular Offering	\$2,392.00
Plate Offerings	20.01
Lent	50.00
Heat Envelope Fund	100.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	60.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Easter Flowers	17.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Lutheran World Relief	50.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$2,989.01

## ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of Russell & Catherine Goertz by the Family; and In loving memory of my daughter, Sally Ann Millikan, by Sally Bjornstad.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS April 6, 2025**

Lector 8 am Becky Pryor

10:30 am Deb. Buckman

Communion Assistants 8 am Drew Haussmann

10:30 am Wanda and Matt Fortin

Ushers 8 am Herb Poff and Dick Miller

10:30 am Gary and Shelby Weber

Organist Sam Robinson

Altar Guild (APRIL) Wanda and Matt Fortin

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

Sunday, April 6 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, April 7 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, April 8 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

West Branch Conference, 9:30 am Property Committee, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Mid-week Bible Study, "Atonement Theories", 12:10 pm

Executive Committee, 1 pm

Thursday, April 10 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

City Pastors Lunch, 1 pm

Friday, April 11 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Saturday, April 12 Church Office Closed

#### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday) Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Thursday, April 17 (Maundy Thursday) Chapel, 12:05 pm

Nave (Foot Washing and Stripping of

the Altar), 7:30 pm

Friday, April 18 (Good Friday) Nave, 7:30 pm

Drama, "The Temptation of Jesus" by

the Rev. Curt M. Joseph

Saturday, April 19 (Easter Vigil) Begins in the Chapel, 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday) Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Hospitality, Fellowship Hall, 9:15 am

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Linda Rosini	4/6	Carol Butters	4/7
Sadie Wentzel	4/10	Taylor Wentzel	4/10
Robert Clouser	<b>4</b> /11	•	

#### PLEASE NOTE:

+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, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."

## BIBLE STUDY

A study of the Book of Revelation during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.



**Lenten Bible study** continues on Wednesdays at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our study this year is discovering what the Bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.



PLEASE JOIN US on Friday, April 18 (Good Friday) in the Nave at 7:30 pm for the Drama, "The Temptation of Jesus," by the Rev. Curt M. Joseph. The drama imagines a conversation between

Jesus and Satan while Jesus is being crucified. The character of Satan "tries his best" to convince Jesus to come down from the cross and end his suffering and execution. Jesus remains steadfast and answers the devil's temptation with the traditional seven last words from the cross. The drama's message is a powerful one and seeks to remind us that (1) temptations were part of the life of Christ, (2) we can only "overcome" temptations when we rely on God in Christ, and (3) Satan and temptations come to us in many and various forms and nuances.

LWR is in desperate need of items for North Carolina and California to respond to the natural disasters in those areas. If you would like to contribute items for personal care kits, please place them in the bin in the Narthex. The kits include cotton towels (20" x 40" up to 27" x 52"), bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. Kits will be assembled beginning in April. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.

## **Ongoing Community Needs**

United Churches Food Pantry: Most needed are cans of SPAM, 64 oz. bottles of non-refrigerated Juice (any flavor but grape,) Pancake Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Boxed Potatoes (any kind but mashed) and Chunky Style Soups.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Most needed are Deodorant, Tampons, Laundry Pods, Kid's toothbrushes and paste and Paper Towels.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Most needed are Dixie-type Soup Bowls (9 oz.,) Boxes of Tissues and Bottles of Ketchup (16-20 oz. size) for their dining tables. Any help you can give will be great appreciated by these ministries. Thank you.

#### **Lenten Season**

Lent

We encourage you to please find several devotional booklets in the Narthex that may aid you in your daily study throughout this Lenten season. We pray these seasonal meditations will help prepare your

heart and mind as we move through this season of Lent heading toward our celebration of Easter.

#### **Lenten Collection**

This Lenten season we are collecting items to create Birthday Bags for the United Churches Food Pantry. (We did this last year as well so it may seem somewhat familiar.) The Food Pantry has been serving an increasing number of neighbors each month, and



Birthday Bags are a nice way to help celebrate these special family occasions. We have a great start on filling our bags thanks to your support during the Advent season – thank you! The most helpful items for our bags during the Lenten season are: **cake pans with lids, gift bags, and candles.** Examples of the cake pans and gift bags (for sizing purposes) are in the Narthex, and all of these items can be found at the Dollar Tree. We look forward to working on this project together, sharing Christ's love with those in need.



**Summer Camp** brochures are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.



Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection! Our shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout the

world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity books, journals, washcloths, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved.

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals** (beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls**, **Hair Accessories**, and **Tape Measures**. These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. We hope to also order Grow With Me shoes this year to be included in as many boxes as possible. Checks may be placed with your offering, earmarked OCC. Thank you so much for your generosity!

\*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (boys and girls)

# ALL ABOARD THE ARK!

A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While



the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner are all included in the price of \$176.77. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.





**Become** WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A

Part of LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. **Church** Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

#### **COMMEMORATIONS**



Albrecht Dürer, died 1528;

Matthias Grünewald, died 1529;





Lucas Cranach died 1553; artists

Sunday, April 6, 20

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and Lutheran Pastor who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World



War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

# Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the bishop of Rome, Agricola began a



reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

#### The Church's One Foundation



# Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con se crat ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on ly, for my King; 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo-ments and my days; take my feet and let them be take my lips and let them be take my in - tel - lect, and use let them flow in cease-less praise. swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. filled with mes - sag - es from thee. ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: Patmos, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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