

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 18, 2025**

**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)

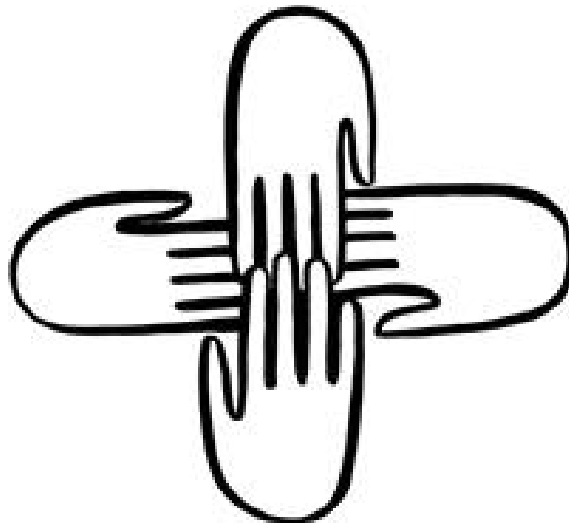
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

*Welcome to Saint Mark's!*

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**



**Please note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**An Order for Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am**

**(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two)**

*A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of ✠ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,

and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that strengthen believers

and give new life to beloved servants of your church;

waters that extend your boundless love

and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that open the hearts of believers

and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;

waters that set your people on a new path,

rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,

that our every day is shaped by these waters

that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN All Are Welcome**

**No Reference Available**

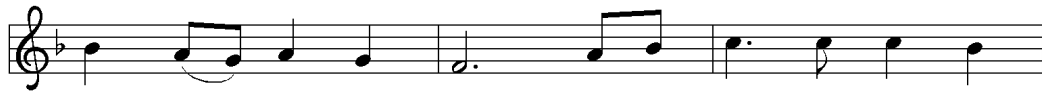
# All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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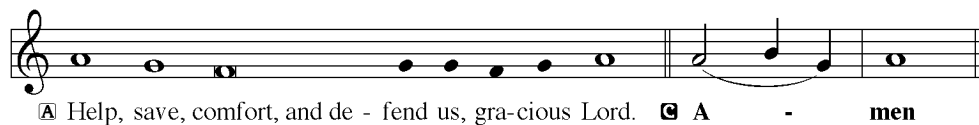
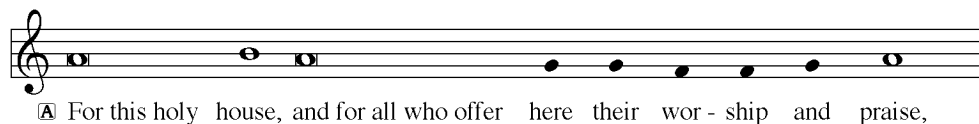
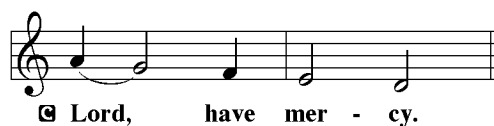
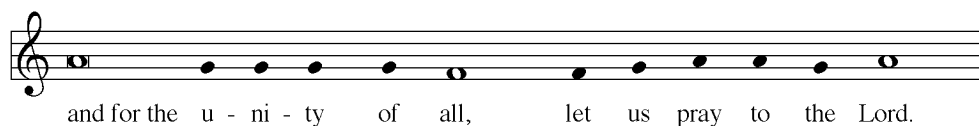
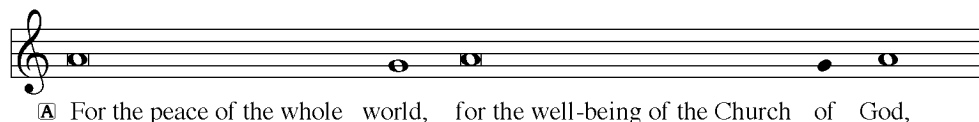
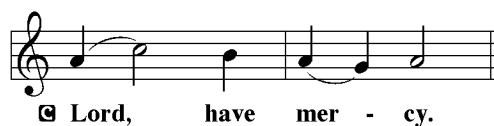
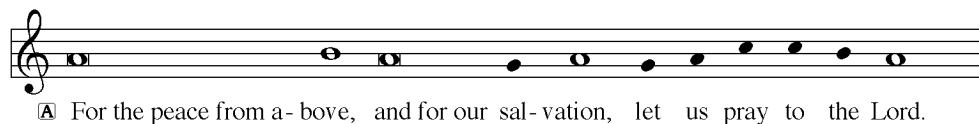
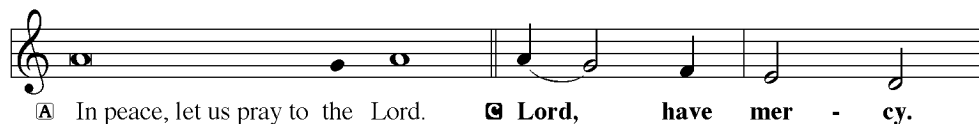
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## \*THE GREETING

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



## \*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. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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: Acts 11:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
servants,**

**the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

## THE SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;



they will be his peoples,  
 and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
 Death will be no more;  
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
 for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”  
 Word of God, word of life.

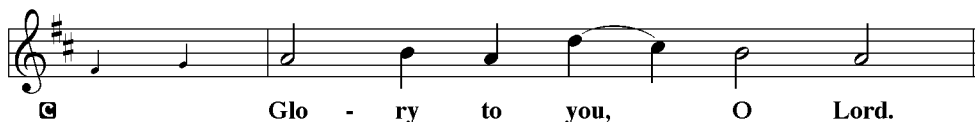
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

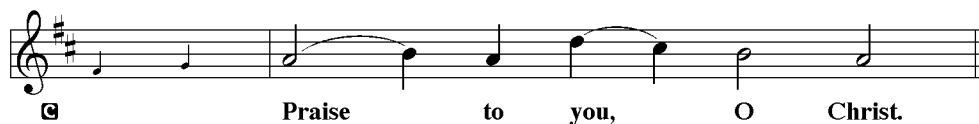


**\*THE GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. The Gospel of the Lord

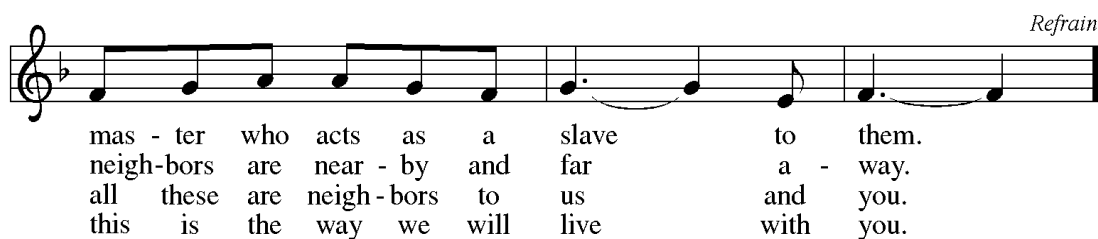
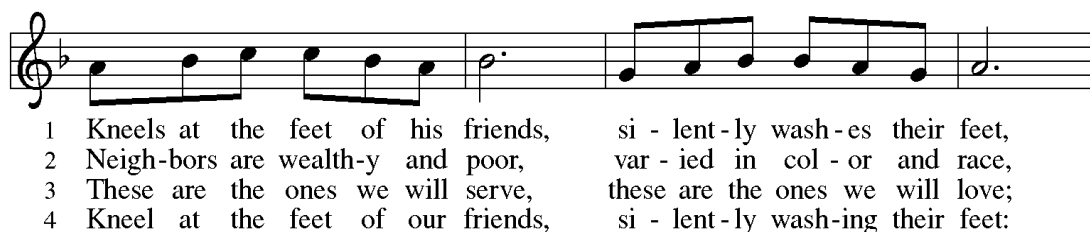


## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love**

**WOV, "Blue," 765**

### Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## **\*THE NICENE CREED**

Together with the whole church, 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**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition: Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.*

**\*THE PEACE**

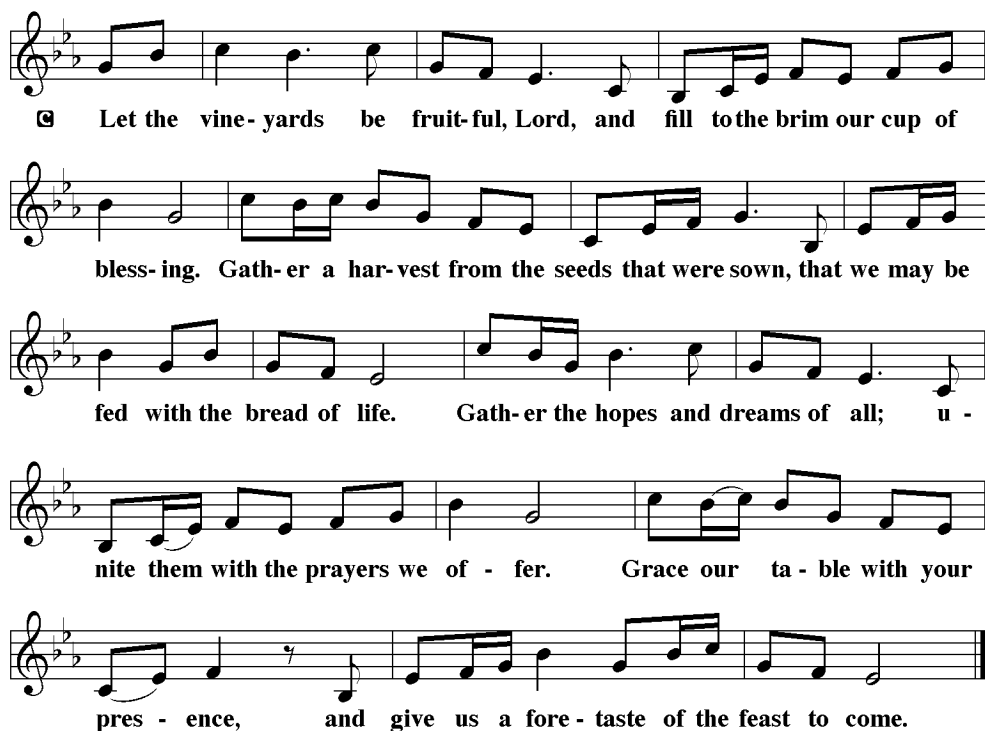
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**ANTHEM**

*If Ye Love Me*

Thomas Tallis

**\*OFFERING**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

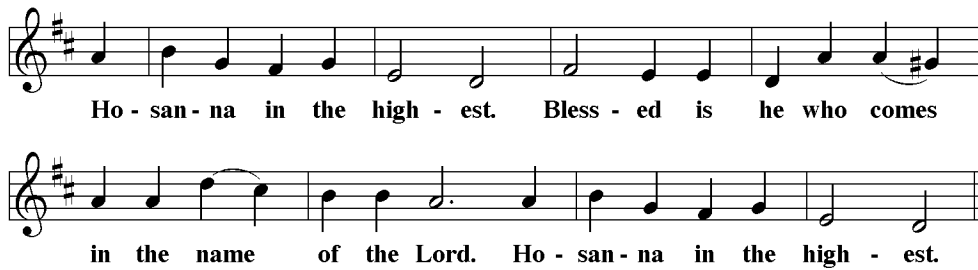
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** 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 offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection  
you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from our slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
By your great mercy we have been born anew  
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead  
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.  
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,  
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,  
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it his disciples, saying, "Take and eat.  
This is my body given for you.  
Do 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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth burning with justice, peace and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
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**



**L**amb 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 TO COMMUNE**

**Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life!**

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

*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.*



## **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**

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

May our triune God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit,  
light your way, now and always with resurrection dawn.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN    In Christ There Is No East or West       No Reference Available**

## In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

### \*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

### OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible, and Becky Pryor.

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for May 11, 2025**

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Regular Offering                 | \$2,139.00 |
| Plate Offerings                  | 5.00       |
| Easter                           | 10.00      |
| Lent                             | 10.00      |
| World Hunger                     | 50.00      |
| Food Pantry                      | 50.00      |
| Global Mission                   | 50.00      |
| Parish Life                      | 271.00     |
| Capital Fund                     | 50.00      |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes        | 70.00      |
| Memorials                        | 1,250.00   |
| July 4 <sup>th</sup> Celebration | 30.00      |

**Grand Total                      \$3,985.00**

## **BULLETIN SPONSOR**

To the Glory of God and in honor of my parents G. Glen Good and Dorothy Good, and brother Glen E. Good by Jane Kline

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

In honor of my Dad by Todd Smith; and

In loving memory of Grace Lehman by Daugher, Lois Winters Goldy; and

In honor of Candy Dewar on her birthday by Herb Poff.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for May 18, 2025**

|                      |          |                                   |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Lector               | 8 am     | Nikki Jackson                     |
|                      | 10:30 am | Ralph Zeigler                     |
| Communion Assistants | 8 am     | Becky Pryor                       |
|                      | 10:30 am | Shelby & Gary Weber               |
| Ushers               | 8 am     | Herb Poff and Dick Miller         |
|                      | 10:30 am | Fortin, Yaple & Wentzel           |
| Organist             |          | Sam Robinson                      |
| Altar Guild (MAY)    |          | Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann |

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

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Today, May 18     | Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am<br>Sunday School, 9:15 am   |
| Monday, May 19    | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm<br>Council, 6 pm   |
| Tuesday, May 20   | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm  |
| Wednesday, May 21 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm<br>“Joshua” Study, 12:10 pm<br>Holy Communion, 2 pm (Willamsport Home)   |
| Thursday, May 22  | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm  |
| Friday, May 23    | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm  |
| Saturday, May 24  | Office Closed  |
| Sunday, May 25    | Holy Communion, 8 am<br>Sunday School, 9:15 am (last class until fall)<br>Holy Communion, 10:30 am |

## **BIRTHDAYS**

|                   |      |                  |      |
|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Stephen Boone     | 5/18 | Ryan Jensen      | 5/24 |
| Candace Dewar     | 5/19 | Dawson Owen      | 5/24 |
| Ken Schreckengast | 5/19 | Dustin Pelleschi | 5/24 |

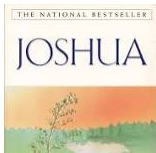
## **KEEP IN MIND:**

~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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that it may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the “Lion.”



**A study of the Book of Revelation** takes place in Crossways Room during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.



**The Faith Formation Committee** is pleased to once again be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through a 4 week book study using the novel Joshua written by Joseph Girzone. We will be meeting on Wednesdays from 12:10-12:50 beginning May 7th. If you would like a copy of this book, please let Vicki Haussmann know at [haussfamily1@comcast.net](mailto:haussfamily1@comcast.net) by Friday, May 2. We are looking forward to using a bit of a different format for this study, and hope that you can join us!



**United Churches Food Pantry:** Small bags of sugar, ground coffee, canned tuna, Pop Tarts, salt and pepper sets, mayonnaise.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby/kids body wash, baby wipes, tissues and kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste.

**Sojourner Truth Ministry:** Air Freshener (light scents,) sugar, mayonnaise, ketchup, and large lunch bags.



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

Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn – 36” to 52” square (no polar fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. **“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”**

**–Samia, East Asia**

**In May** we will be collecting **Jump Ropes, Hair Accessories, Bungee Cords, Screwdrivers**

Monetary donations are also welcome as we would like to include “Grow With Me” shoes in as many shoeboxes as possible this year. Shoes are a requirement to attend school, so receiving a pair is a huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark’s with OCC in the memo line.

These items (or anything else you may find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

\*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both 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 at Hershey Farm Inn are all included in the adult price of \$176.77 and \$110.61 per child. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



**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 at 570-323-4619 or email

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).

**District Cinema** has partnered with United Churches of Lycoming County to provide faith-based movies at a discount to local congregations. The movie "The Last Rodeo" will be at 2p.m., Sunday, May 25. The District is located at Lycoming Mall Circle. For more information and tickets prices please call their office at 570-260-3000.

**Old Immanuel Lutheran Church**, the "mother" church of Lutheranism in Lycoming Country, will be holding its annual Memorial Service on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 2:30 pm. It is located at 2366 Lime Bluff Rd., Muncy. The Rev. Carol Johnson, of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Williamsport, will be leading the service. The DAR will be present also to formally dedicate plaques marking the final resting place of some of the patriots buried in the cemetery. After the service is concluded, light refreshments will be served on the church lawn. All are welcome!

## COMMEMORATIONS

### **Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

*Sunday, May 18, 2025*

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.



### **Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330**

*Wednesday, May 21, 2025*

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.



### **Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists**

*Saturday, May 24, 2025*

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.



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