

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**January 18, 2026**

**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 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; Setting Two, Lutheran Book of Worship**

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

*Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

### **PRELUDE**

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

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

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

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community,**

**but we have served our own interests**

**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**

**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**

**that we may do justice, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,

and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,

and forgives your sin in  $\dagger$  Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,

and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**Arise, Your Light Has Come**

**WOV, "Blue," 652**

**Arise, Your Light Has Come!**



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;

2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;

3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,

4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.

pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.

bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.

Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## \*THE GREETING

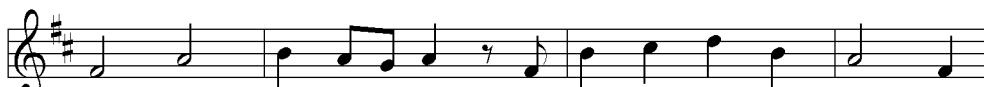
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,  
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!**

**They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,  
none can be com- | pared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I  
can count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;**

**you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not  
required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

<sup>8</sup> **‘I love to do your will, | O my God;  
your law is | deep within me.’ ”**

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your  
faithfulness and | your deliverance;**

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great  
assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

## THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



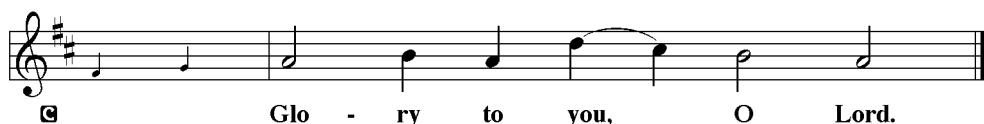
C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*THE GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

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

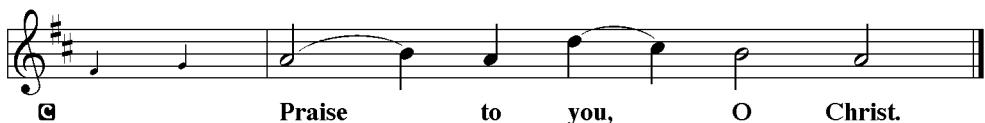


C Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult**

LBW, "Green," 494

**Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult**

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 As of old St. An - drew heard it by the  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice  
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
make us hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."  
kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895

Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851-1922

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess the faith in which we were baptized.

**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

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition: Merciful God/Hear Our Prayer*

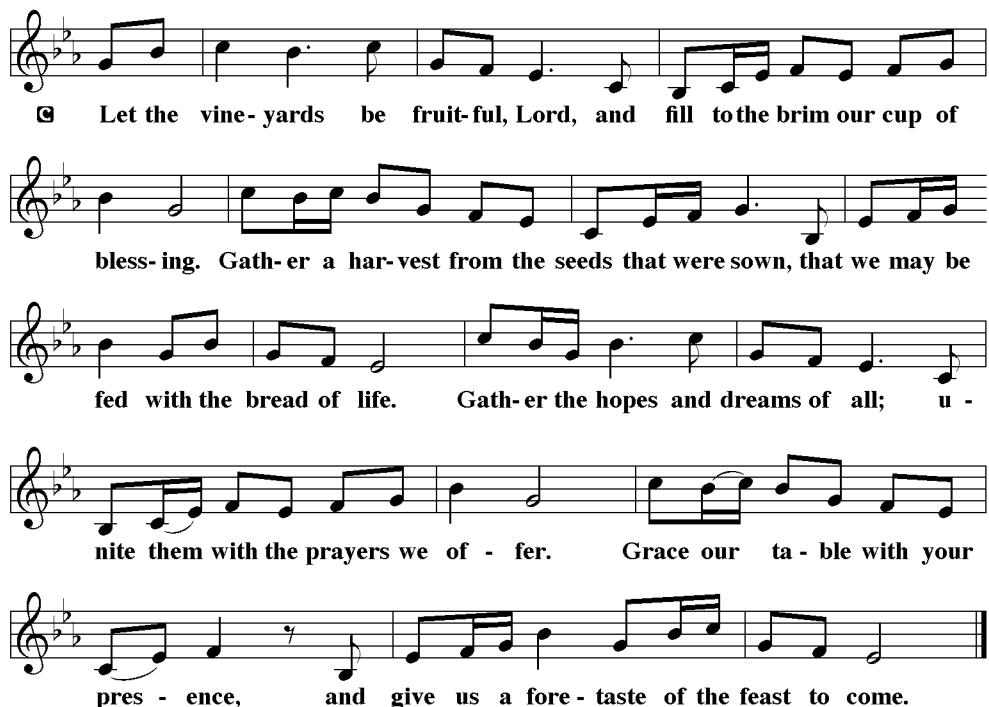
### \*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*People may greet one another with these or similar words.*

### OFFERTORY



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.

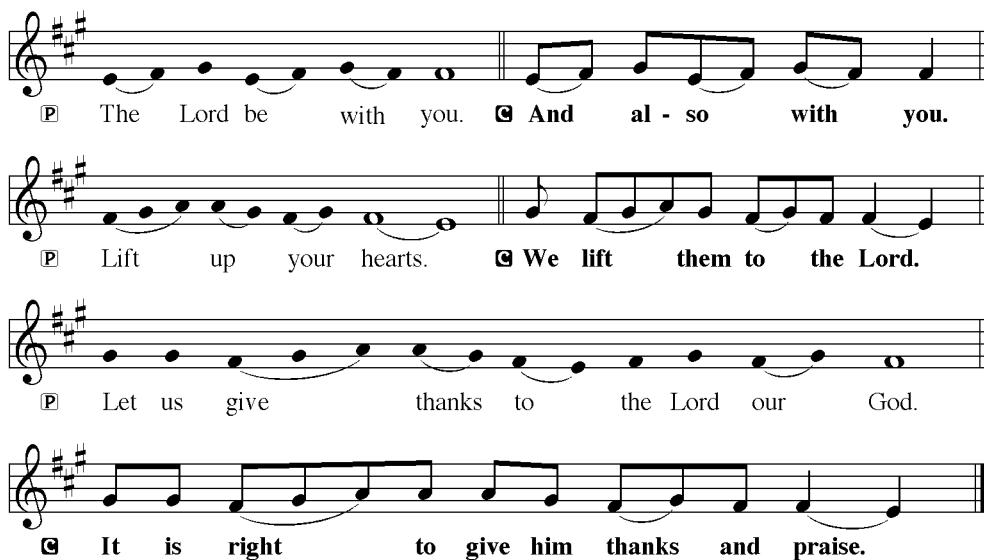
## \*OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The first staff contains the text: "P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you." The second staff contains: "P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains: "P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains: "C 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Sharing our life he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
 The promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
 the words of the prophets; and the gift of your Son,  
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will,  
 even to the giving of his 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 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.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We rejoice in the hope of his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we who share in Christ's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

One God.

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,**

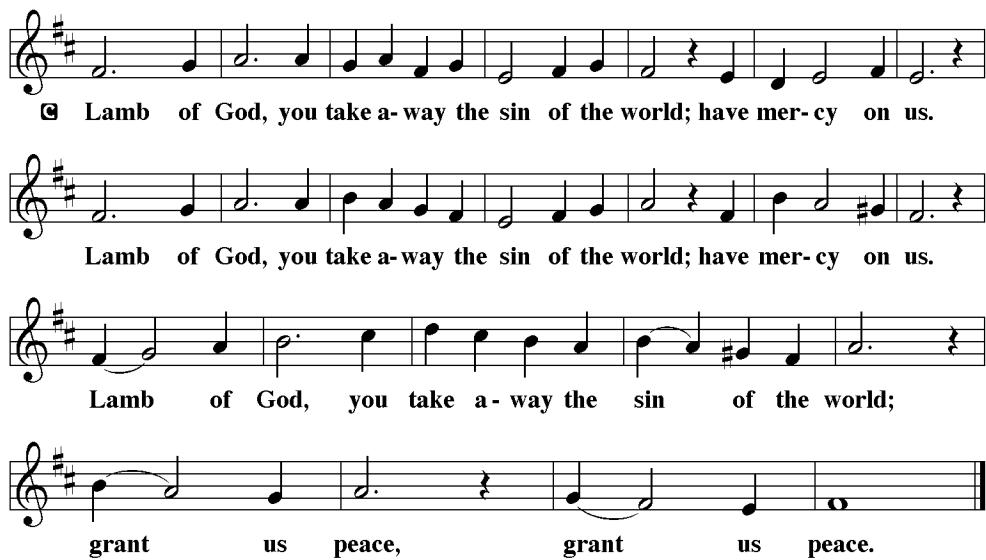
**thy will be done,**

**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



♩ 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 TO COMMUNE

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

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

We have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### \*BLESSING

May Almighty God,

Father, Son  and Holy Spirit,

bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      How Marvelous God's Greatness**

**LBW, "Green," 515**

## How Marvelous God's Greatness

1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!  
2 Each ti - ny flow'r - et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;  
3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord  
4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky

To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night:  
the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;  
the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;  
of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;

in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen - dent birth,  
the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;  
the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;  
when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,

in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.  
the snow-capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.  
and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.  
oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## OUR PRAYER LIST

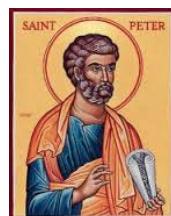
Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Carol Waltz, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, and Ann & Charles Kuntz.

## COMMEMORATIONS

### Confession of Peter

*Sunday, January 18, 2026*

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.



### Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

*Monday, January 19, 2026*

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.



### Agnes, martyr, died around 304

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.



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

Today, January 18	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am
Monday, January 19	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Council, 6 pm
Tuesday, January 20	Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm
Wednesday, January 21	Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm Holy Communion, Williamsport Home Bldg. A, 2 pm
Thursday, January 22	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, January 23	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Saturday, January 24	Church Office Closed
Sunday, January 25	Third Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am Worship and Music Meeting follows 10:30 am Service

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for January 11, 2026**

Regular Offering	\$2,766.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Initial Offering	35.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,891.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and  
In honor of Anna and Laura's 27<sup>th</sup> birthday by their Dad, Dan Zeigler; and  
In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for January 18, 2026**

Lector	8:00 am	Becky Pryor
	10:30 am	Brenda Gair
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Becky Pryor
	10:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Matt F./Glenn Y./Mel W.
Hospitality	8:00 am	Jackie Kinney
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JANUARY)		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Shawn Cartwright	1/20
Herb Poff	1/21
Neil Eshelman	1/24

## **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."



So we are done for this year however, please do not stop thinking about the kits and the items for them! Watch the clearance racks and shelves for items and snap them up. If you do not want to store them at home, you can bring them to the church and put them in the office opposite the middle lounge -

you will know which one it is - the messy one with boxes, etc. Baby clothes, towels, etc. can be found on clearance. Deb Buckman



**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).

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The meeting with our insurance rep, Chris Fellon, will be Monday, Jan. 19 at 10 AM - starting in Middle lounge then doing a tour. Please let me know if you are coming so Chris can make the appropriate number of handouts. Thanks - Deb

#### **Christ's Blessings Continue in 2026!**

The Evangelism and Fellowship and Faith Formation Committees would like to send a **HUGE** thank all who participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar collections this past December. A stunning

**One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five** items were distributed to 5 local agencies helping those in need.

- Shepherd of the Streets received over **300** hygiene items
- United Churches Food Pantry received **200** non-perishable food items
- Code Blue received **600** individual snacks, cups of soup, and cereal
  - \* Code Blue also received **\$370** in grocery gift cards to assist with their ministry.
- The Blessing Box received individual snacks as well as hygiene items
- Sojourner's Truth received miscellaneous items to be used in their kitchen
- 16 cake mixes and frosting are ready to be used to make Birthday Bags this Spring!

Your generosity is truly amazing! Thank you for helping to "Make Christ Known" to those in need this New Year!



### Still Needed At.....

Our congregation generously donated food, snacks and hygiene items to various nonprofits in our community during our Reverse Advent project. But the need for these items continues. As you are able, please consider donating to these nonprofits.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Any hygiene items for adults, children or infants are greatly appreciated. Gently worn coats, hats and gloves are also being collected during these winter months.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings and plastic knives.

**United Churches Food Pantry:** Please consider continuing to offer non-perishable food items to be used by the Pantry. Canned chicken, tuna, beef stew and pineapple are in short supply.

**Sandwich Crews at St. Mark's:** We provide sandwiches weekly to New Covenant's Blessing Boxes. Monetary donations to offset the cost of rolls, meat and cheese are always appreciated. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life. We could use another person to assist with sandwiches on Wednesday mornings (2 times per month.) Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if interested.

### Hungry for Homemade Soup?

It is that time of year when the Penn College United Campus Ministry holds their annual soup sale. All soups are freshly made, then frozen. Our own Jackie Kinney is donating chicken noodle soup. Several other soups are available. Cost: \$12 per quart. Orders are due by January 23, 2026. Order forms are available in the Narthex.

### Dream Week

**The Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way**  
**January 19 – January 24**

This week gives us an opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's work and put our

thoughts into action in a variety of ways in our community. **Go to [www.stepcorp.org/mlk](http://www.stepcorp.org/mlk)** for all the available activities and registration. There are several food activities available at New Covenant UCC.

### **Card Ministry**

A new year for sending cheery messages to our Special Concern folks is underway. We need volunteers to take a month of card sending for 2026. Everything is provided but you. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Helen Schramm is sending cards for January, but we need a person to send cards as soon as February.

### **A Look Ahead----Valentine's Day Greetings**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in sending Valentine's Day greetings to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like. Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 1, 2026 after each service. Please add a cheery message, affix a stamp and mail in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

### **Go Green**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee continues to accept donations of holiday gift bags, tissue paper, new Christmas cards and 2026 calendars and pocket planners for use with future projects. A tub is in the Narthex for your donations.

**A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:** We are in need of communion assistants for the 10:30 am service. If this is something you would be interested in, please call the office at 570 323-4619. Thank you!!

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS, Class of 2028** (serving from 2026-2028)

New Members: Shawn Cartwright

Scott Seyler

Second Term: Deb Buckman

Nikki Jackson

Members: Deb Buckman, Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Ray Huff, Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler, Pastor Vasey

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