THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

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 One, 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.***

PRELUDE *Elegy* Hubert H. Parry

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP
Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

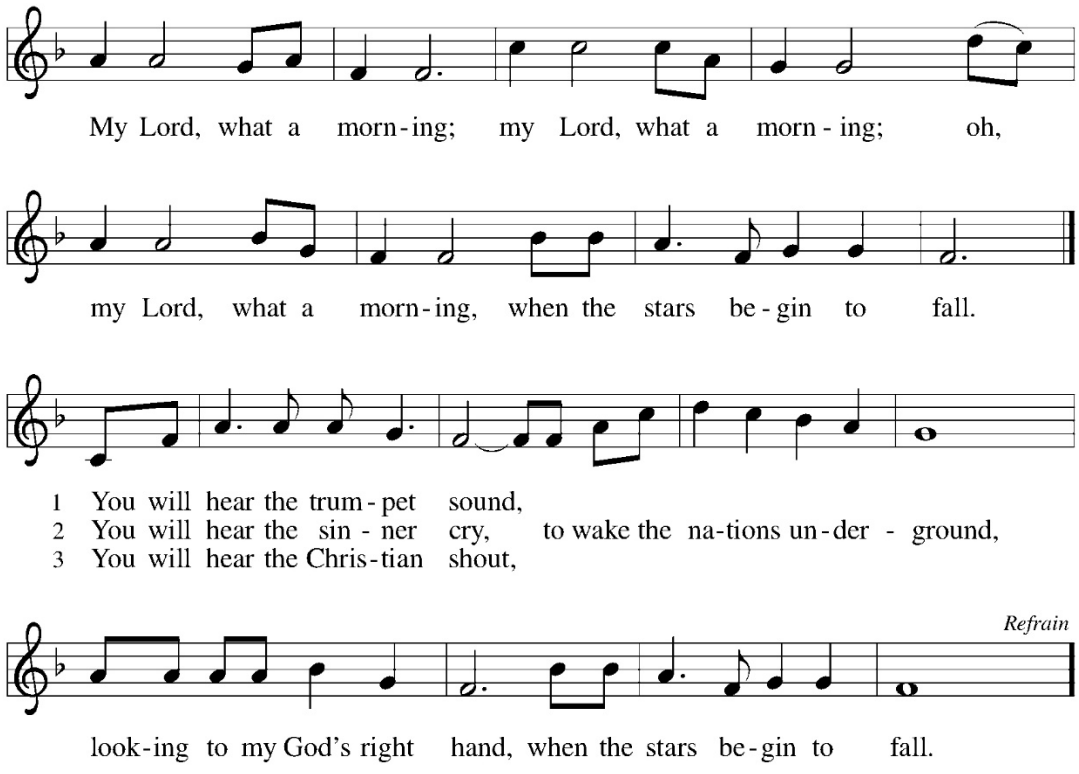
***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel/Stand)
Silence for Reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those of you who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***HYMN My Lord, What a Morning WOV "Blue," 627**
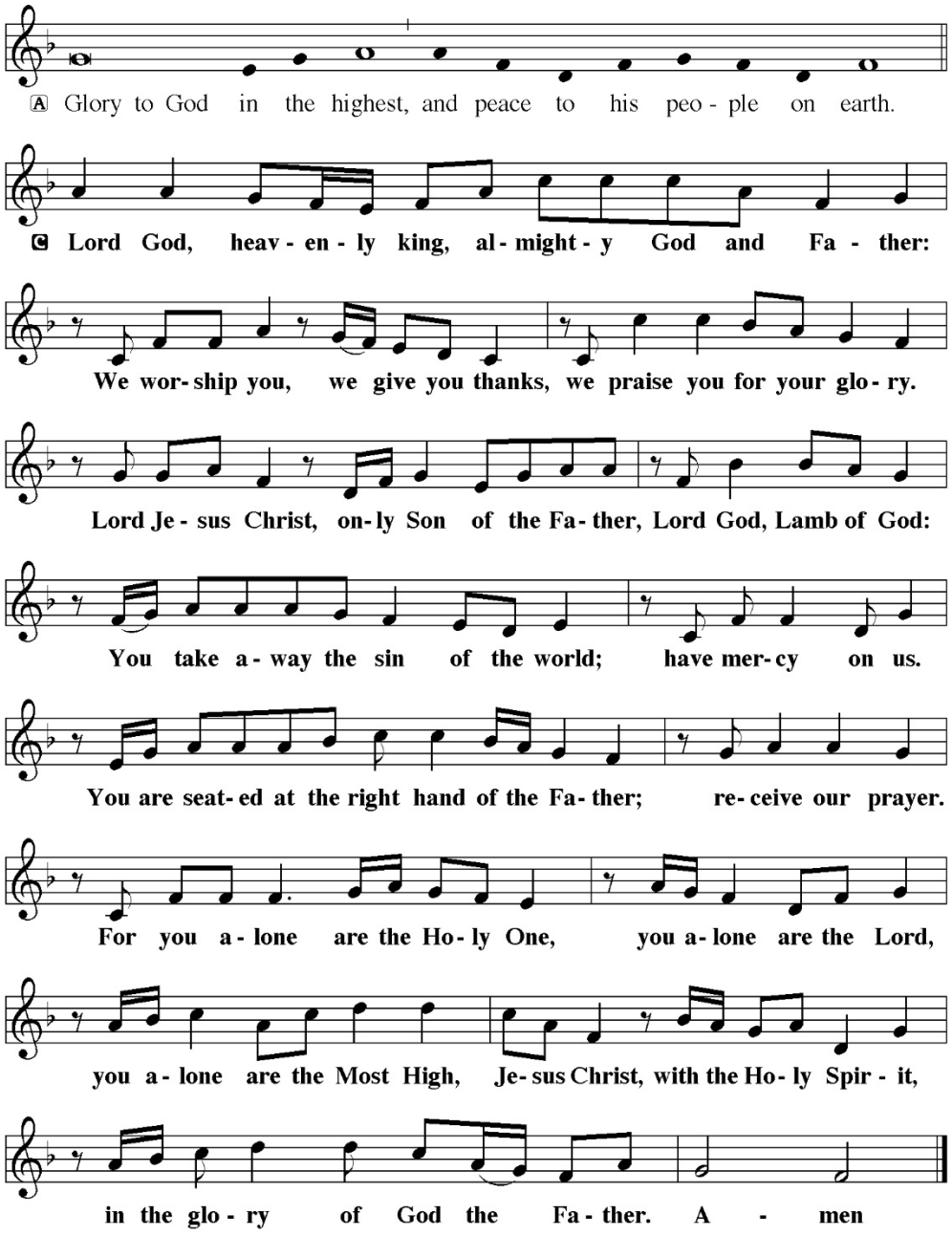


BURLEIGH

***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**



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray**.**
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested
a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70
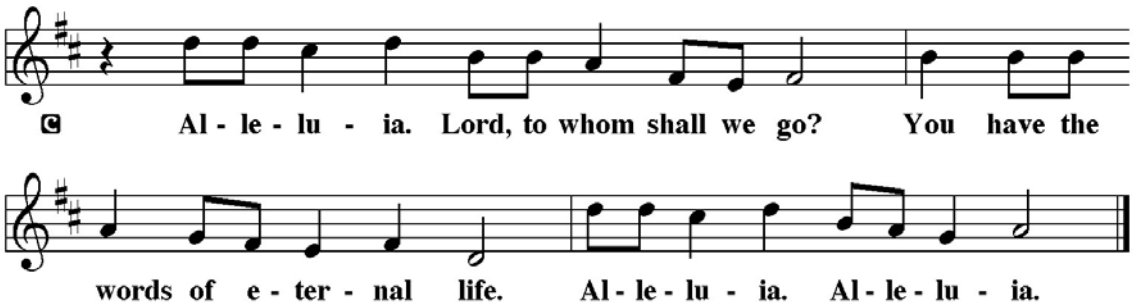
1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be

disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

THE SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

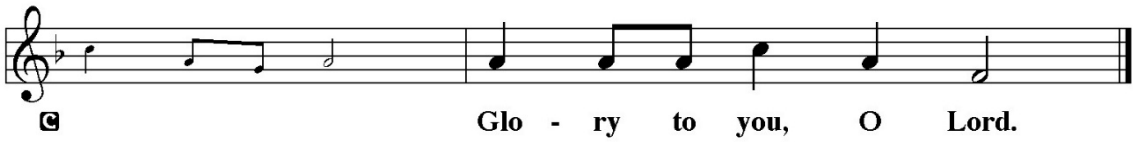
13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



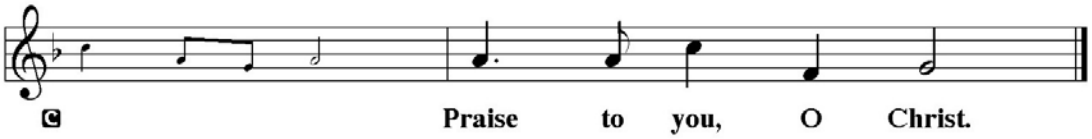
***THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids)**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.
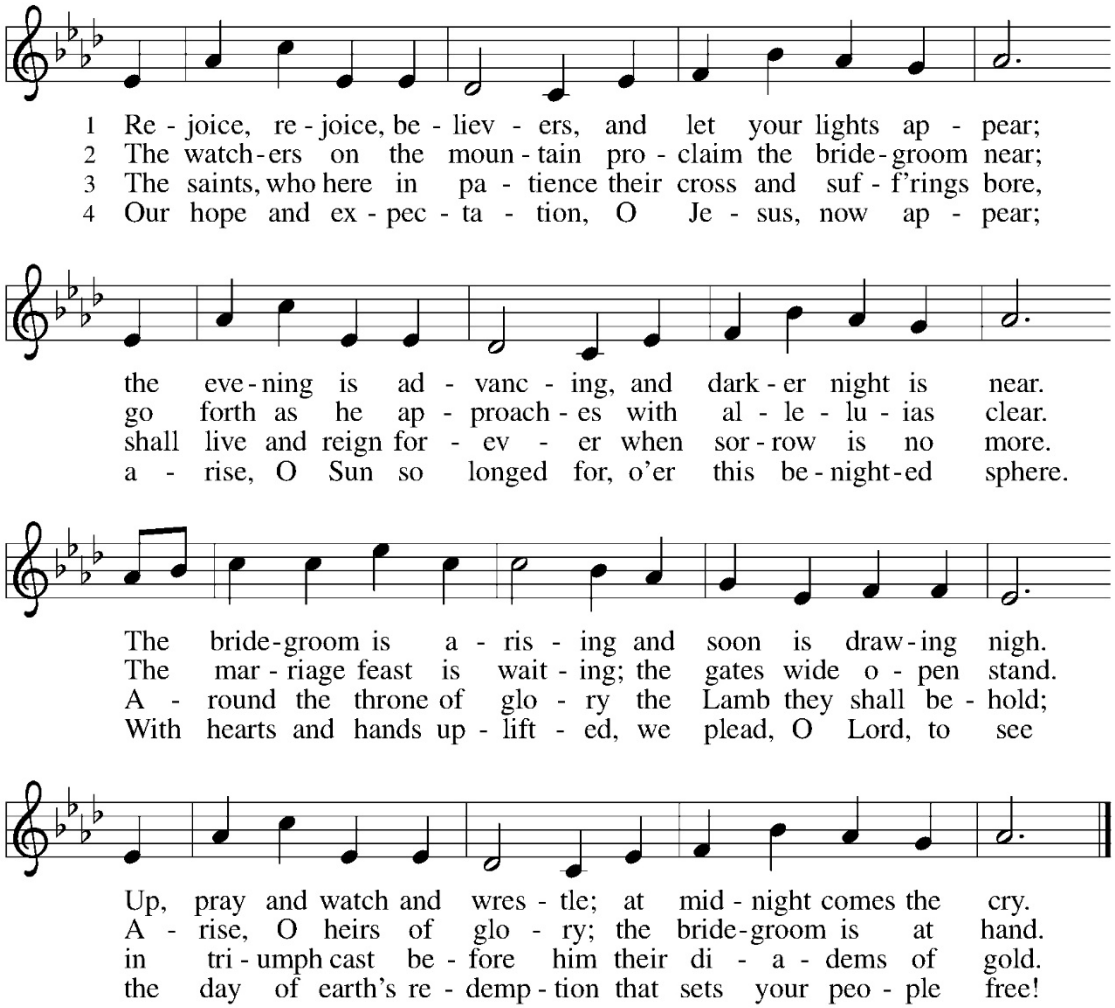


[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers LBW "Green," 25**



HAF TRONES LÄMPA FARDIG

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us 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.**
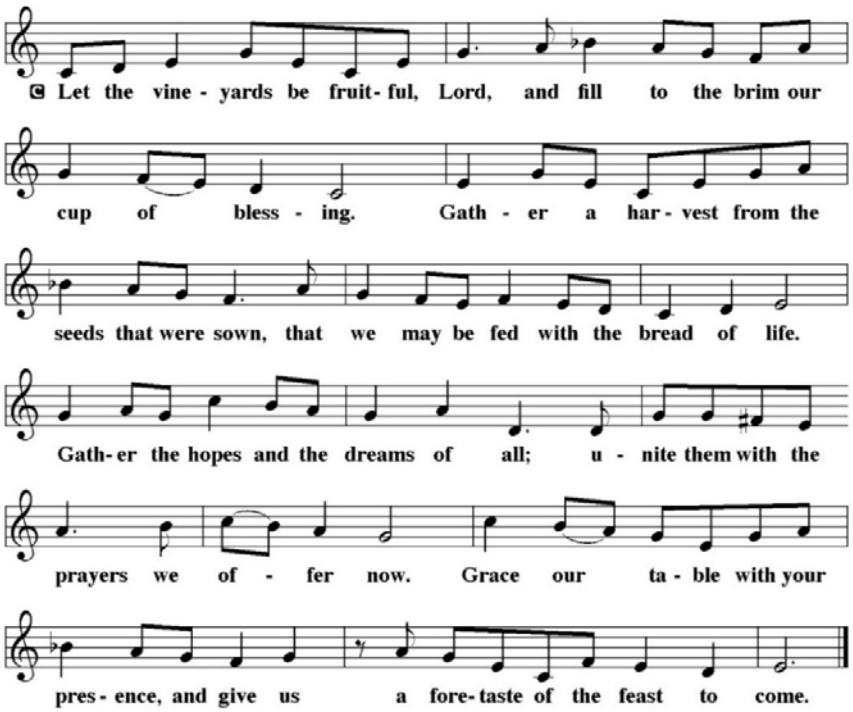
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
*After each petition: God, in your mercy/**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 or gestures.

ANTHEM *Canto Popolare* by Edward Elgar Karen Mariano, clarinet

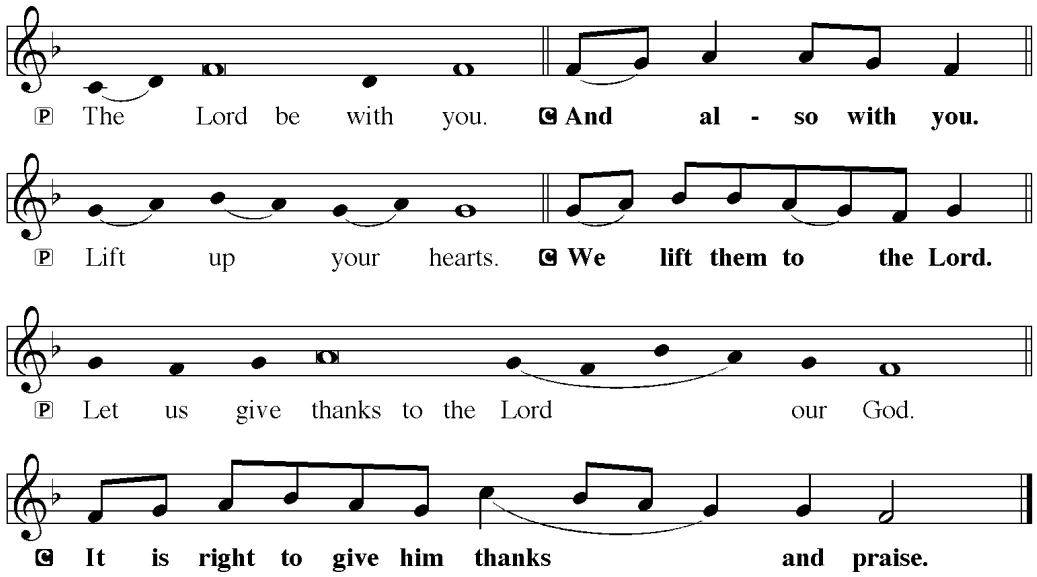
***OFFERING**



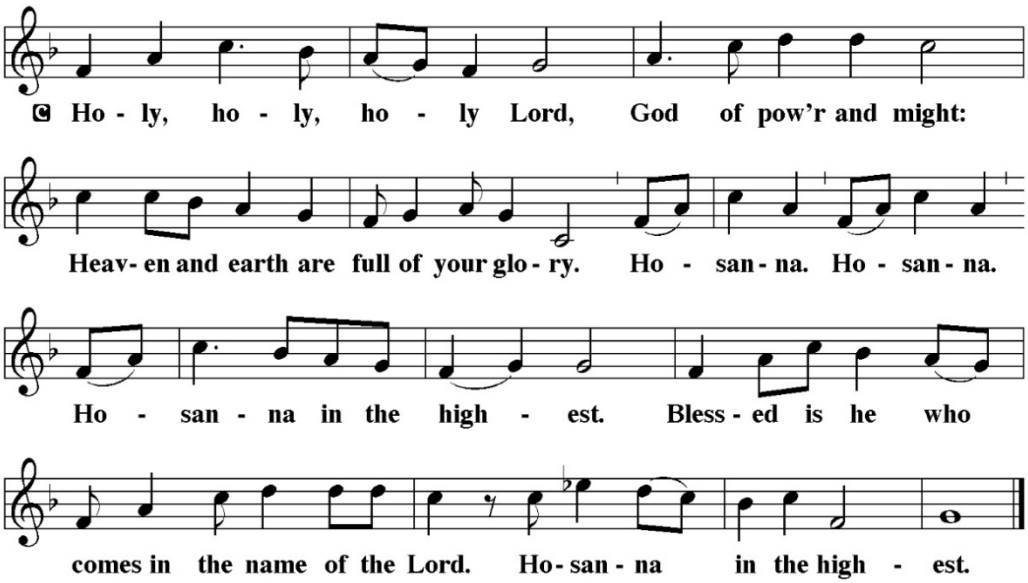
***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***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 Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,
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 the good news to the poor,
and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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."

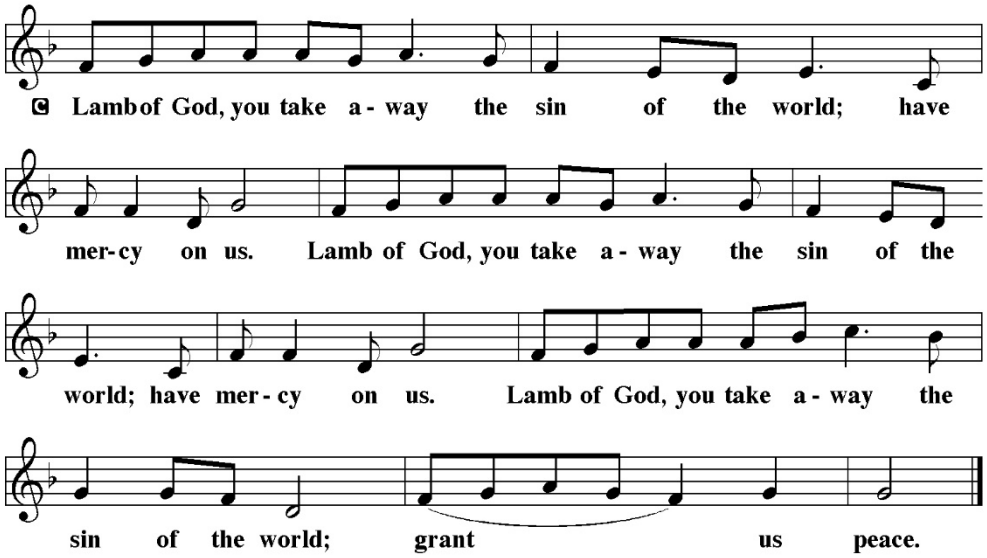
Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink saying,
"This cup is the new
covenant in my blood, shed
for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

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



*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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.
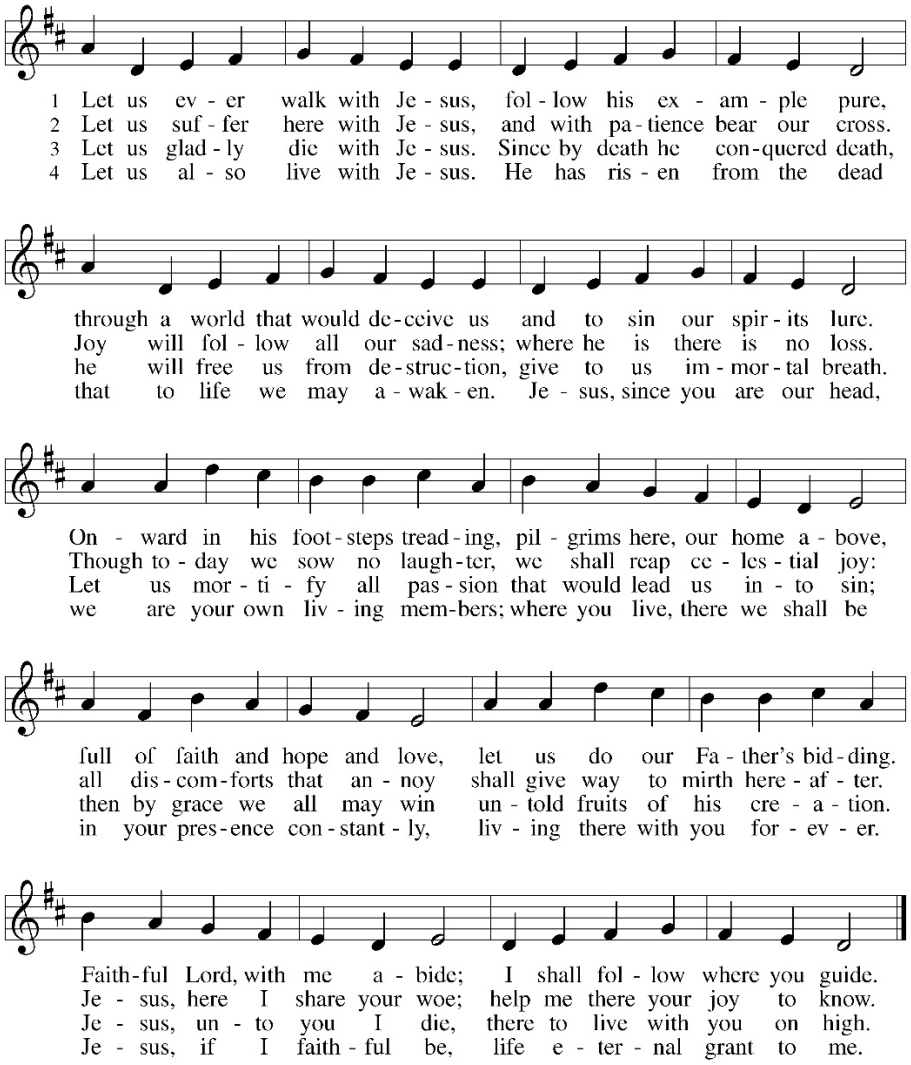
***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***HYMN Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus LBW "Green," 487**



LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Cantique* Edward Elgar

Summary: Jesus tells of ten bridesmaids awaiting the bridegroom, urging his disciples to remain ready because they do not know when he will come.
Theme: Watchfulness; readiness for Christ's coming; faithful perseverance.

Music notes:
Today's Gospel (Matthew 25:1-13) is the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, in which Jesus urges his disciples to stay watchful and ready, since no one knows when the bridegroom will come. Watchfulness and readiness for Christ's coming is also the great theme of Advent, and as the church year draws toward its close, our readings begin to turn toward it. We begin with "You'll hear the trumpet sound" (BURLEIGH), which looks ahead to the day of Christ's coming. "Rejoice, rejoice, believers" (HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG) is a hymn we more often sing in Advent. We sing it today because it is built directly on this parable, urging us to keep our lamps burning bright as we await the bridegroom, and it is sung to a Swedish tune. We close with "Let us ever walk with Jesus" (LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN), a hymn of steadfast discipleship that answers the parable's call to perseverance by committing us to follow Christ faithfully day by day.

Our offertory today is a clarinet solo, Edward Elgar's Canto Popolare. Elgar wrote the tune in 1904 while on holiday in Italy, where, as he walked in the Vale of Andora, a passing shepherd by an old Roman ruin inspired the folk-like melody in the central section of his concert overture In the South (Alassio). Although the "canto popolare" ("folk song") sounds like an authentic Italian tune, it was entirely Elgar's own invention. It proved so popular that Elgar published it separately in several versions, including one for clarinet. In a service about watchfulness, its quiet, unhurried melody offers a moment of patient stillness, like a lamp kept burning through a long night.

Today's voluntaries are two works from the English tradition. *Elegy* by C. Hubert H. Parry, best known for hymn tunes such as REPTON and JERUSALEM, is music of quiet reflection. Edward Elgar's *Cantique* takes its title from the French word for a song of praise or hymn. Elgar wrote it in 1879 as the second movement of "Shed No. 6," a piece for his own wind quintet, which is why it carries the early opus number 3. In 1912 he arranged it for organ and for orchestra, and in that form it closes the service on a note of gentle, confident devotion.

****

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, Claire Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt & Leah Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, Ann & Charles Kuntz, Dave Williams, Bud Doebler, Shirley Hill, Ruth Osbaugh, Pam Osbaugh, Hannah Hausmann, Stephen Boone, Joshua Garverick, Jane Kline, David Martinez and Brian & Nikki Jackson.

COMMEMORATIONS

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397



Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855



Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, November 8	**Janet Stroble preaching and presiding** **Holy Communion, 9:30 am**
Monday, November 9	**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm** **Finance, 5:30 pm**

Tuesday, November 10	**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm**
Wednesday, November 11	**Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm**
Thursday, November 12	**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm** **Fold OCC Shoeboxes, 10 am**
Friday, November 13	**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm**
Saturday, November 14	**Office Closed** **Hometown Heroes, 9 am**
Sunday, November 15	**Pastor Montgomery preaching and presiding** **Holy Communion, 9:30 am** **OCC Packing Event**

OUR STEWARDSHIP for November 1, 2026

Regular Offering	$3,645.00
Plate Offerings	25.00
Heating Envelope Fund	25.00
Parish Life	35.00
Grand Total	**$3,730.00**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Judy Fortin, our Mother, by Matt and Wanda Fortin and Family; and
In loving memory Harry and Hester Nolan by the Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for November 8, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Janet Stroble
Lector	9:30 am	Candy Dewar
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Becky Pryor and Devin Owen
Ushers	9:30 am	Tim & Deb Maggs, Dick Reitz
Hospitality	9:30 am	Donna & Gary Clark
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Richard Reitz
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Wanda Fortin & Ruth Ann Bigelow

WORSHIP LEADERS for November 15, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Pastor Ron Montgomery
Lector	9:30 am	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Phil Thomas & Dan Zeigler
Ushers	9:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Hospitality	9:30 am	OCC Packing Event/Fellowship Hall
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Richard Reitz
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Wanda Fortin & Ruth Ann Bigelow

BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Gair	11/8
Cathy Fenderson	11/9
Becky Miller Pryor	11/9
Elizabeth Haussmann	11/13

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 the church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

~ 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."

FINANCE

Next finance meeting is November 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm to finish the budget. Thank you.



Halloween Fun with Little Lambs Preschool

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee joined with the many parents and staff of Little Lambs Preschool for their annual Fall/Halloween Celebration. Many parents decorated their car trunks in a variety of themes and everyone dressed for the occasion. Our committee saw members dressed as a cat, a witch and a banana. The rest of us wore festive sweatshirts. Although we did not decorate a trunk, we did have a festive table with lots of goody bags and other treats for the event. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day. Our own Donna Clark captivated the children with her story of being a good witch. A photo gallery of the day is available to view in the Narthex. Thank you, Donna for not only captivating the children, but also for taking photos of the day.

Most Needed At……

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks you for any assistance you can give.

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): It is time to talk turkey. As STM begins preparations for their Thanksgiving Day meal they are in need of Napkins, Drink Mix, Coffee, 8 oz. Styrofoam Cups, 8 oz. Paper Cups and Steel Scrubbies.

United Churches Food Pantry: It is also time to talk turkey at the Pantry. This month they are requesting items that are typically in need for that Thanksgiving Day meal. Requested donations are canned Cranberry Sauce, Cans of Pumpkin, Pie Filling, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Boxed Stuffing, Sugar, Flour, Salt and Pepper Sets and Coffee, Tea and Hot Cocoa. The Pantry continues to accept plastic grocery bags and 12 count egg cartons.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed are Laundry Pods, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Band Aids, Women's Deodorant, Q-tips, Shampoo, Children's Toothpaste and Body Wash.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Snack items, microwave, single serve food and travel size hygiene items.

Sandwich Needs: We continue to accept monetary donations. These donations assist with bread, rolls, meat, cheese, individual condiment packages and

sandwich bags. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line stating Parish Life. Thank you for the many donations we have already received.

Turkeys and Hams: If your grocery shopping has you receiving a free turkey or ham you cannot use for Thanksgiving Day or Christmas, please consider donating it to Sojourner Truth Ministries. Speak to Becky Pryor for more information.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee: Upcoming Events

- **Hometown Heroes:** On Saturday, November 14, this committee will host the Hometown Heroes group in Fellowship Hall. We decorate Fellowship Hall in a patriotic theme and this year will serve light refreshments. Speak to a committee member if you would like to assist with decorating Fellowship Hall or if you can provide donuts or other snacks.
- **Christmas Gifts:** Again, this year we will be collecting items for the residents/consumers of Danville State Hospital. During all of November, we will be accepting new items for these folks. A sample of needs are new socks and underwear, sweatshirts and sweatpants, hygiene items, slippers, pj's, inexpensive watches and wallets/change purses, coloring and activity books for both men and women. Clothing sizes for both men and women are large and extra-large. Donations are due no later than November 29 and can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.
- **Ladies of CM-6/Selinsgrove Center:** Later this month, we will start collecting our usual gifts of pudding cups and body wash for the ladies. Look for a more complete announcement toward the end of November. P.S. We hope to visit the ladies on Thursday, December 17, 2026 in the afternoon. Please consider joining us.
- **Advent Wreath Making:** Sunday, November 29 in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday Service. There will be hospitality in Fellowship Hall for everyone. All supplies will be provided. Please join us even if you do not wish to make an advent wreath.

Did You Know?

- If you provide altar flowers, you may take them home to enjoy after the Sunday service. Mache flower bowls are available in the Pastor's sacristy for your convenience.
- If you are experiencing a health event and need medical equipment, St. Mark's has a supply of walkers, canes, port-a-potties, shower chairs, crutches and a medical bed. Call the church office for additional information.

A Season of Thankfulness

Lorretta Hawe, sister of Donna Clark, has been on our prayer chain for many months while she battled cancer. The good news is that she is in remission. Recently I received a lovely note from Lorretta thanking us for the prayers that healed her. Please take a moment and read her note.

Hi Becky,

Thank you for keeping in touch. Thank you and St. Mark's Lutheran Church for all your prayers. I am on the mend at this time and trying to rebuild my body. I've been walking and slowly starting to exercise again. I've got a long way to go, but I know I will get there with prayers.

Lorretta



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting and Brunch are scheduled for **Sunday, December 6, 2026 immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service of worship**.

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are:
* Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
* Election of new Council members
* Adoption of the 2027 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
* Any other business that needs to be addressed

Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ray Huff, president; Dick Reitz, vice-president; Cindy Todd, secretary; or Debra Buckman, treasurer. We are looking forward to not only seeing you on December 6th, but are excited to see how our congregation will continue to "Make Christ Known" in 2027! Thank you for your participation in this important church event.

A complete list of anniversaries for the month of November (that was missing from the LION):

Rick & Jenn Robertson	11/5
Stephen & Candy Dewar	11/18
Cheryl & Dave Williams	11/19
Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler	11/19
Mel & Mindy Wentzel	11/30



Operation Christmas Child ~ Opportunities to Help

November 12 ~ Come help fold our shoeboxes! This is an easy task and 80 boxes will come together quickly with several helping hands. We will meet at **10:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall.

November 14 ~ Come help set up our tables in Fellowship Hall (literally and figuratively). Once our tables are set up, help lay out and organize all the gifts that have been collected throughout the year. We will meet at **1:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

November 15 ~ Come help pack our shoeboxes! We will begin with a short presentation on the positive impact Operation Christmas Child has on the shoebox recipients. We will then fill our shoeboxes with gifts and love. We will meet after the 9:30 church service. This is such a fun time seeing our shoeboxes come together. If you haven't had the opportunity to help pack, please come over to Fellowship Hall. It is well worth it!

****

Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...
Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)
Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)
Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.
sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress.
All rights reserved.
Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.
"One License" A-738528

****