

**The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost in the
167th Year of the Parish**

November 15, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



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

PRELUDE “Elevazione”.....Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

***HYMN *Come, Ye Thankful People Come*.....ELW 693**

**Come, Ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them

on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12 (*Read responsively*)

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth
were born, from age to age you are God.**

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are

not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 25:14-30**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and

lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

C **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**

Hear us O God/Your mercy is great.

*THE PEACE

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

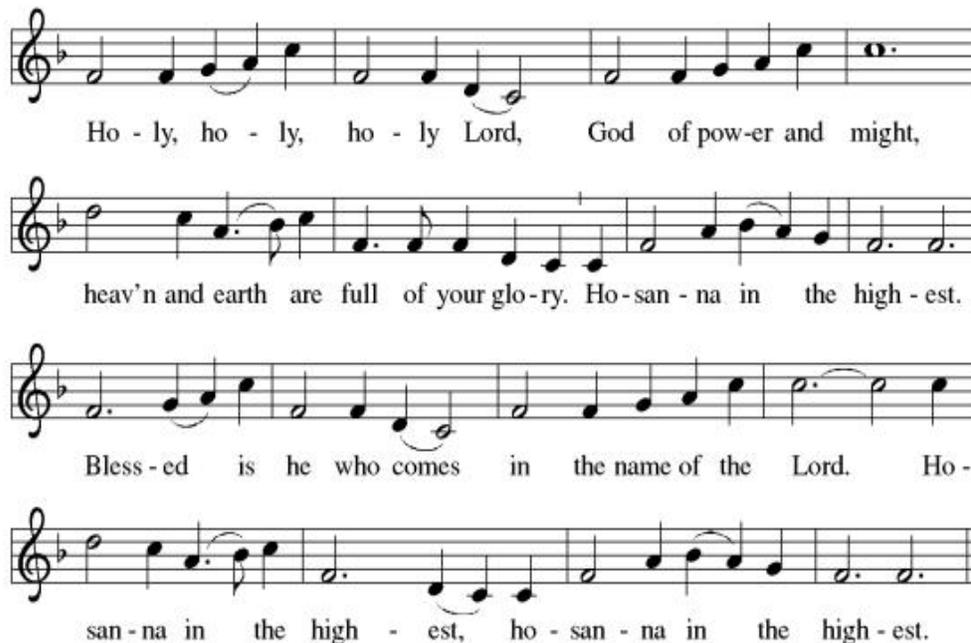
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with angels and arch angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

C **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.**

***THE COMMUNION**

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' Table.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

P May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always.
C Amen

***HYMN *O Christ the Same*WOV 778**

**O Christ the same, through all our story's pages-
our loves, our hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**

**O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

***DISMISSAL**

P Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “*All' Offertorio*”Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

Flowers: Our altar flowers are given to the glory of God...

In loving memory of Harry and Hester Nolan by the Family

In loving honor of Charlie and Judy Fortin by Matt and Wanda Fortin
and Family

Altar Guild:

Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

Ushers:

8 am: Dick Miller and Herb Poff

10:30 am: Matt Fortin (Captain), Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler, Cindy Huff (side door).

Lectors- 8 am: Drew Haussmann

10:30 am: Ray Huff

Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Randy Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Ben Hufnagel and Steve Dewar.

Announcements:

Sunday, November 22:

Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

Thursday, November 26, “Thanksgiving Day”. Church Office closed.

Best wishes for a “Blessed Thanksgiving”.

Sunday, November 29, The First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 2, Advent Mid-week Service, 12:15 pm (Nave).