

**The First Sunday of Advent**  
*in the 167 Year of the Parish*  
November 29, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
142 Market St., 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)



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

**PRELUDE**

*Celebration*

Charles Callahan

**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**

**P** 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

**\*HYMN**            *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*            **LBW 27**

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

**\*KYRIE**

**P** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Christ have mercy upon us.

**P** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**\*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

**P** Behold our Lord and Savior now draws near!

**C** Come Lord Jesus!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

## THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 64:1-9

1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
2as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
4From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
5You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
6We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

9Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19** (*Read responsively*)

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**4O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

5You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**17Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

18And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**19Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE GOSPEL.....Mark 13:24-37**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 24“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

## **THE SERMON**

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

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

Hear us O God/**Your mercy is great.**

### **\*THE PEACE**

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

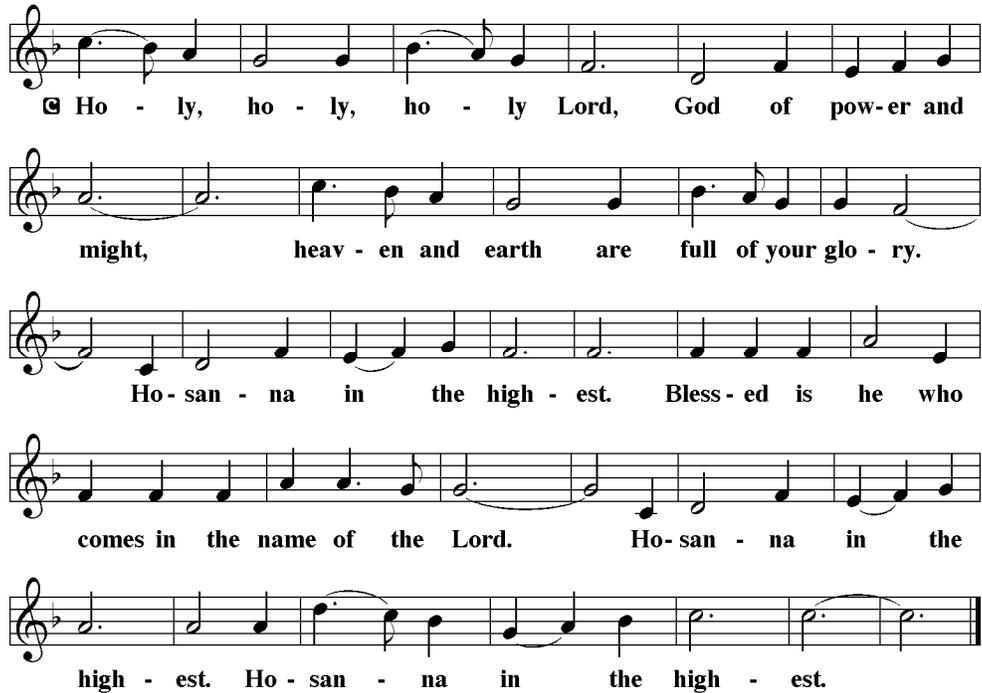
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**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. You comforted your people with the promise of a Redeemer through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en 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.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**\*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** Even as we watch and wait and wonder, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink.

**C** Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*THE BLESSING**

**P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**C** Amen

**\*HYMN** *Soon and Very Soon*

**WOV 744**

**Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**  
*(Sung Two times)*

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rejoicing*

Charles Callahan

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

In loving memory of Lorraine and Philip Hoffman and Dorothy and Paul Ramsauer by the Ramsauer Family.

In celebration of St. Mark's Church Family (The Flower Fund)

**Altar Guild:**

Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

**Ushers:**

**8 am:** Dick Miller and Herb Poff

**10:30 am:** Tim Maggs (Captain), Carl Heiber, Charlie Fortin, Ruth Sherlinski (side door).

**Lectors- 8 am:** Drew Haussmann

**10:30 am:** Pam Jensen

**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, 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.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE**

**Worship Attendance- *Sunday, November 22***

*8 am -16*

*10:30 am- 35*

**Total Offering: \$2512**

*Regular \$2496 Capital \$25 World Hunger \$0*

*Food Pantry \$0 Global Missions \$5 Misc. \$550*

*Plate \$0 Sunday School \$11*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

**Thursday, December 24: Holy Communion at 7 and 10 pm (*Weather and Pandemic Permitting*).**

**\*Sunday, December 13: *there will be two worship times (8 and 10:30) and not one as previously announced. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow both services. The change was made to help us better observe COVID-19 guidelines.***