

The Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021
in the 168th Year of the Parish
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.”

An Order of Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am
**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Troisieme Livre, Recit* Louis Marchand (1669-1732)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

P We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
C Amen

***HYMN The Day of Resurrection**

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end!**

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: ELLACOMBE

*GREETING

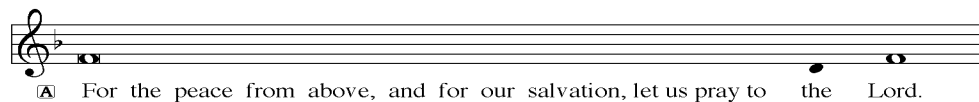
P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



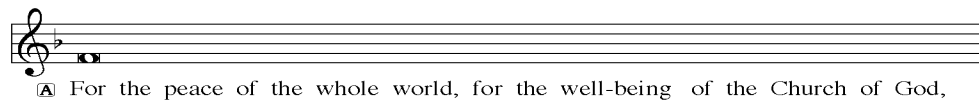
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



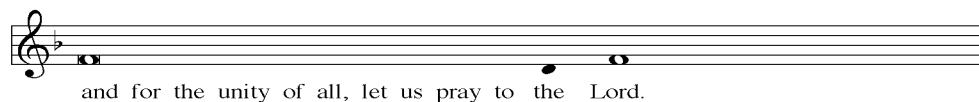
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



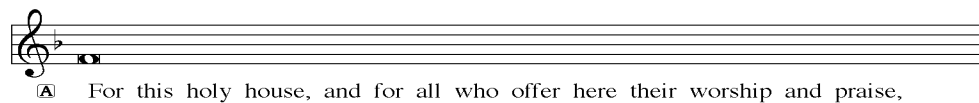
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



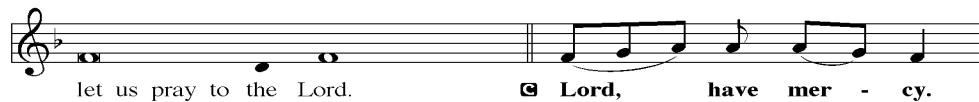
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

* THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, 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. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. III For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Acts 3:12-19

12[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my
prayer.

**2 “You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**

3 Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

**4 Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.**

5 Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

**6 Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.**

7 You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

**8 In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 John 3:1-7

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 24:36b-48

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

36Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate in their presence.

44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

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**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

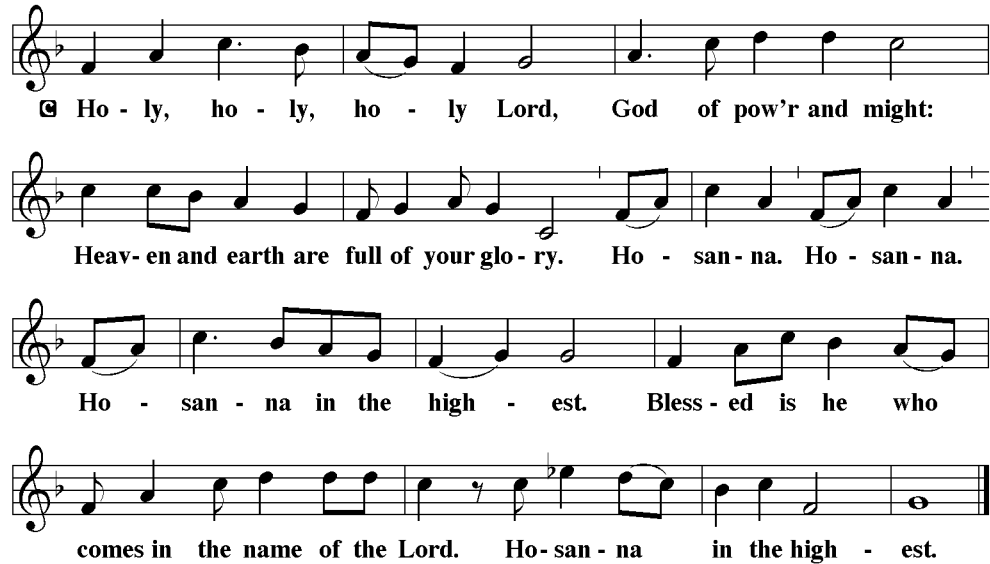
P Lift up your hearts.

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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; 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 eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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.

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**

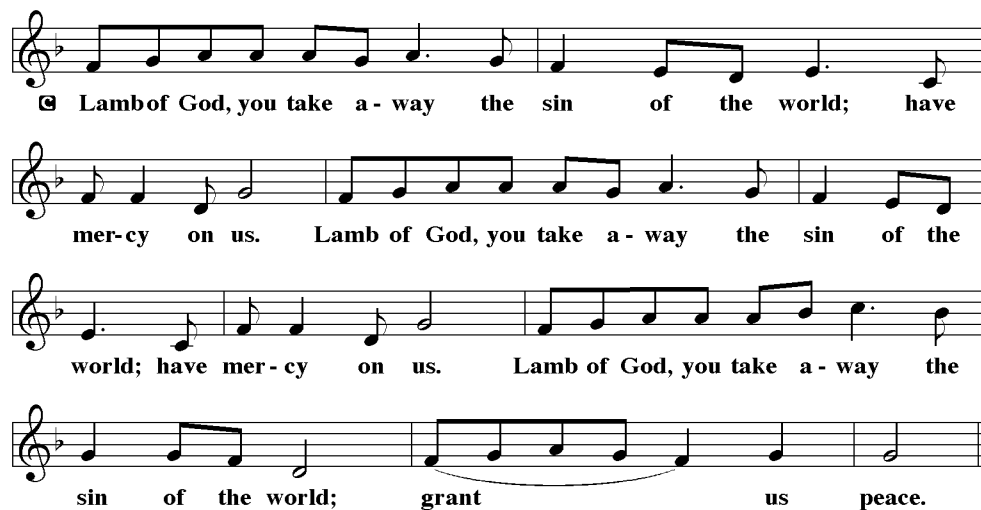
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

C Amen

THE COMMUNION

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE BLESSING**

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

**Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity**

Refrain

**With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty**

Refrain

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Troisieme Livre, Dialogue* Louis Marchand (1669-1732)

+++++

Portions of the service reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB144818.

Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am Ruth Rees/10:30 am Gary Weber

CANTOR/SONG LEADER Ray Huff (10:30 am)

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: April 18

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Tim Maggs- Captain, Carl Heiber, Charlie Fortin, Sally Bjornstad (side door).

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:

In honor of Ben Haussmann's 21st birthday by Drew and Vicki Haussmann

In loving memory of our parents by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Arner.

Our Stewardship (4/8/-4/12/2021)

Regular Offering	\$2,551.00
Plate Offering	\$ 40.00
Lent	\$ 10.00
World Hunger	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 65.00
Global Mission	\$ 50.00
Sunday School	\$ 14.00
Shepherd of the Streets	\$ 50.00
Capital Fund	\$ 50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 86.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 50.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,016.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets at 6 pm, Monday, April 19, in Fellowship Hall.

WEST BRANCH CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY. The Lutheran Churches in our area that constitute the West Branch Conference Assembly will meet Sunday, April 25, 2021, at 2 pm via Zoom. Please keep our West Branch Conference in your prayers.

COMEMMORATIONS

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church

Monday, April 19, 2021

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación)

“Earth Day”

Thursday, April 22, 2021

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Friday, April 23, 2021

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.