

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 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 for Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Prelude

Louis Couperin

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 Son of God, Eternal Savior**

**Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.**

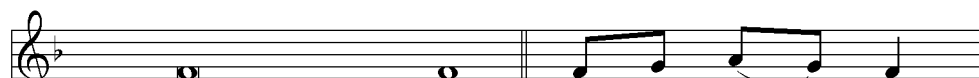
**Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.**

*GREETING

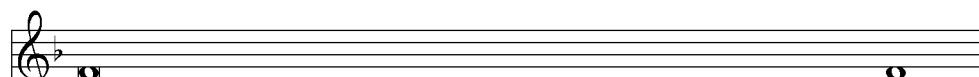
P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



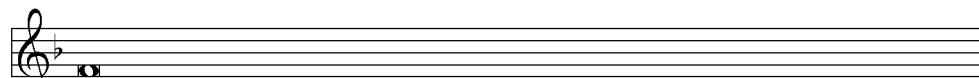
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



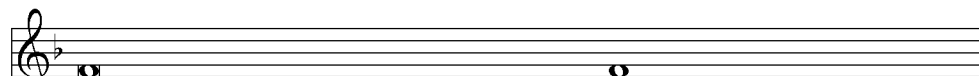
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



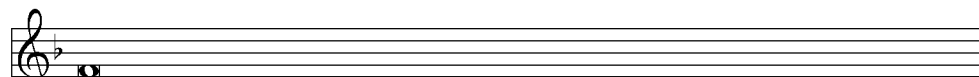
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



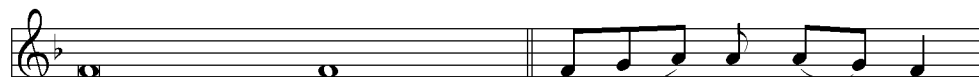
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



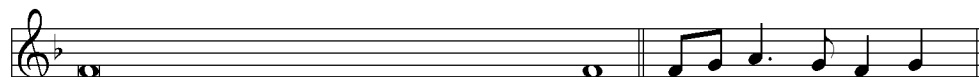
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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. ① 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. ② 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. ① 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. ② 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. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Acts 10:44-48

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

1Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

**2O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

**4Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

5Sing to the LORD| with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

**6With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

7Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

**8Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to | judge the earth.**

9The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 John 5:1-6

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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.....John15:9-17**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.



[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



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 THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

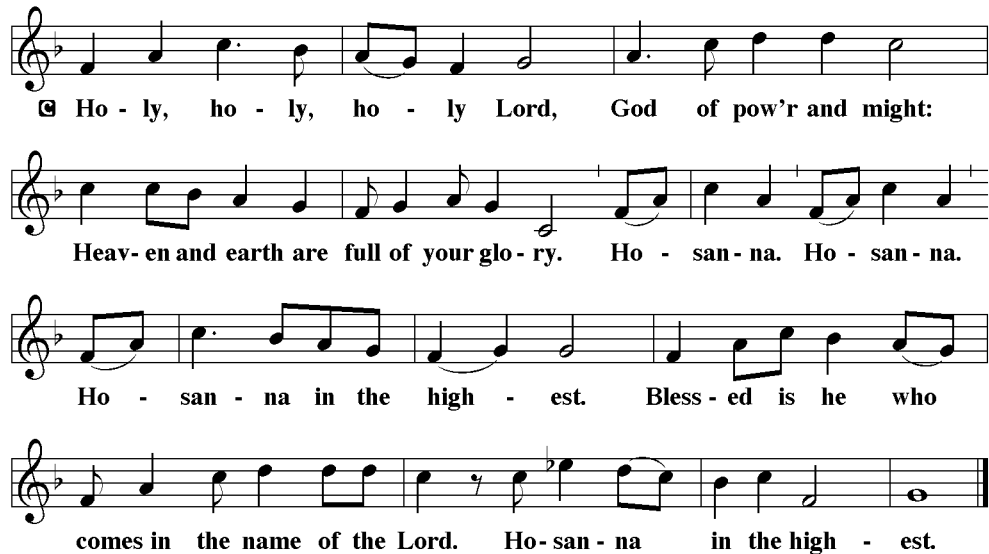
P Lift up your hearts.

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, 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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,

**God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!**

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933
Tune: HYMN TO JOY

***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

Chaconne

Louis Couperin

+++++

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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, 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, Leah Hausmann/10:30 am, Kathy Dancho
CANTOR/SONG LEADER Deb Buckman (10:30 am)
ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: May 9

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Carl Albright—Captain, Brenda, Owen, Levi Gair, Cindy Huff,
(side door)

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

In loving memory of Rosena Haines, by Dan and Diana Zeigler

In honor of our mothers, Judy Fortin and Ruth Ann Bigelow by Wanda and Matt Fortin and family.

In honor of Sarah Jones' birthday by Sally Bjornstad.

In honor of our daughter's college graduation by Diana and Dan Zeigler.

Our Stewardship (5/02-5/03/2021)

Regular Offering	\$4,782.50
Plate Offering	\$ 20.00
Easter	\$ 25.00
Lent	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 320.00
Food Pantry	\$ 20.00
Sunday School	\$ 5.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 190.00
Memorials	\$ 100.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 40.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 50.00

GRAND TOTAL **\$5,562.00**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday, May 23, 2021 is the Day of Pentecost and this year we look forward to having red geraniums grace our sanctuary. Please use the enclosed envelope to order your plants, enclosing payment at this time. The suggested donation amount is \$5.00 per geranium and deadline for ordering is today (Sunday, May 9th). Geraniums not picked up after the 10:30 service will be planted around St. Mark's property.

And, don't forget to wear an article of red clothing to worship on that Sunday (the Day of Pentecost, May 23). Red is the color associated with the Holy Spirit!

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, hand washing and using hand sanitizer often. 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.

COMMEMORATIONS

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760.

Sunday, May 9

When he was 22, a group of Moravian Christians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf land. He agreed and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions is also remembered for writing many "pietistic" (combining doctrine with holy living practices) hymns of our faith.

Matthias, Apostle

Friday, May 14, 2021

Matthias was the apostle added to the 12 after Jesus' resurrection as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had travelled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formally commemorated on February 24, Matthias' celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.