

The Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021
in the 168th Year of the Parish
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!

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

An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am (LBW setting two) celebrating Pastor Vasey's Thirty-fifth Ordination Anniversary. Bishop Barbara J. Collins presiding.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Rondeau Fanfare* Jean-Joseph Mouret (16821738)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As the bishop leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Bp In the name of the Father ✠, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Bp 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**

Bp 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.

Bp 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

Bp 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**

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

**We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

Refrain

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord
for all his love.**

**We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure--
our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain***

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.
Tune: WIR PFLUGEN 76 76 D and refrain

*GREETING

Bp The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*GLORY TO GOD

A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
 B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:
 We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bp The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Bp Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Ezekiel 17:22-24

22Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

23On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

24All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

1It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

**2to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

3on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

**4For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**

12The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

**13Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

14they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

**15that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:6-17

6So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10For all of us must appear before the

judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

11Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. 12We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. 13For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 4:26-34**

Bp The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

26[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,27and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would

**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, “Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer.”

***THE PEACE**

Bp 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 each other.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Great Thanksgiving musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are as follows:

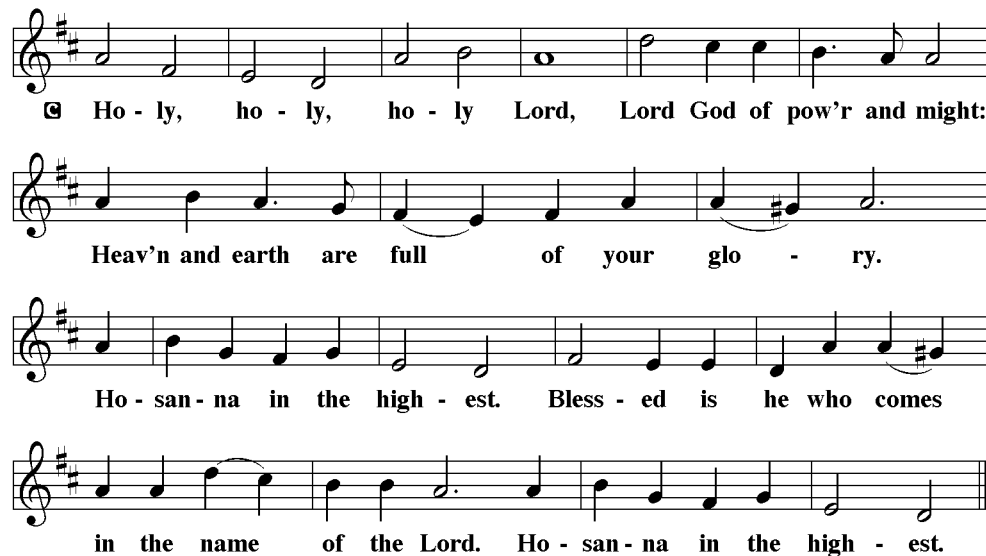
1. **P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

2. **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

3. **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

4. **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Bp It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who after the resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even until the end of the age. And so, with the glorious company of the apostles and all ministers of the church, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Bp 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**

Bp 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**

Bp Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come!

C Thanks be to God!

***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, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bp Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

C Amen

***THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who provides for
us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

**How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.
In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored done.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Tune: REPTON

***DISMISSAL**

Bp Go in peace. You are the body of Christ

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** *Psalm XIX: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

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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, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Linda DeSeau, Mike Ford, Susan Kalabacas.

WELCOME BISHOP COLLINS. We are pleased to welcome Bishop Barbara J. Collins and her husband John Collins to St. Mark's and thank her for preaching and presiding at this special eucharist.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

Preacher/Celebrant The Reverend Barbara J. Collins
Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Lector Drew Haussmann

Cantor/Songleader Sadie Wentzel

Organist Sam Robinson

Vocal Soloists Brandy Aguirre, Tim Vasey

Council President Linda Rosini

USHERS: June 13

Tim Maggs - Captain: Carl Hieber, Charlie Fortin

Please Note: The Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some restrictions may now be lifted. If you are fully vaccinated but still feel comfortable wearing your mask, please continue to do so. Church Council will address this issue at our meeting on June 14. Until that time pastor will continue his practice of masking and encourage you to consider the health of others in your masking practices. As a congregation we will continue to social distance, sing and speak in very low tones, washing hands and using hand sanitizer often, and use “celebration cups” for holy communion. Thank you!

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at worship 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.

Council meets June 14th, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Read any good books lately? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

Juneteenth Celebration, Saturday, June 19, 2021. The festivities begin at 9 am at Freedom Rd. Cemetery, prayer at 9:15 am and a one mile walk to Brandon Park. Mayor Slaughter will speak at 11 am. All are welcome! For more information call 570-360-9250 or go to: lycomingtricountynaacp@gmail.com.

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery and is a day of joy, celebration and recommitment to the values of freedom and building good community for all.

Pastor's Vacation- June 20-28, 2021

Pastor Vasey will be on vacation June 20-28. Should you need a pastor during this time, please contact the Rev. Ronald Montgomery:

Email: rgmontgomery527@gmail.com

Pr. Montgomery's Phone: 570-584-446 or 570-584-3490

OUR STEWARDSHIP (6/6/21-6/7/21)

Regular Offering	\$3,408.50
Food Pantry	\$ 10.00
Shepherd of the Street	\$ 20.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Grand Total	\$3,478.50

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In honor of our children Derek, Paige and Brandon by Matt and Wanda Fortin.

+ In loving memory of our mothers, Doris Fortin and Lois Johns by Charlie and Judy Fortin and Family.

COMEMMORATIONS

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Monday, June 14, 2021

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

Thursday, June 17, 2021

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to reaffirm their commitment by repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.