

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 4, 2021**

“Independence Day, USA”

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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*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)*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given 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 unto 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**

### **God Bless Our Native Land**

**God bless our native land;  
firm may it ever stand  
through storm and night.  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,  
do thou our country save  
by thy great might.**

**So shall our prayers arise  
to God above the skies,  
on whom we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
guarding with watchful eye,  
to thee aloud we cry:  
God save the state!**

## \*GREETING

P 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



Ⓐ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Ⓑ 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**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom in this and in every land. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*In the USA July 4 commemorates both the “birth” of our nation and the freedoms we enjoy. As we celebrate this day, our readings remind us that God has set us free to serve others in love and to not use our freedoms for boast or personal gain.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Deuteronomy 10:17-21**

17For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, 18who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. 19You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. 21He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 145:1-9**

1 I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev-er and ever.

2 Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev-er and ever.

3 Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
there is no end | to your greatness.

**4 One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power.**

5 I will speak the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.

**6 They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count of your greatness.**

7 They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of | your righteousness.

**8 The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

9 LORD, you are | good to all,  
and your compassion is over | all your works.

## **THE SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 11:8-16**

8By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” 13All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14for people who speak in this

way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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.

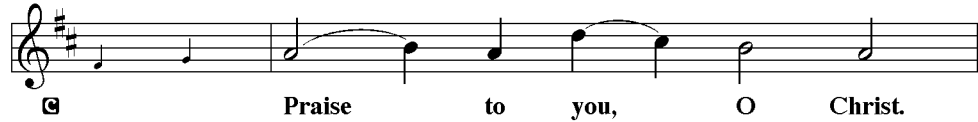
**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 5:43-48**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said] 43“‘You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. 46For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

### **SOLO- "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"**

J.W. Howe      North America, 18<sup>th</sup> century

Ray Huff, Soloist

### **\*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:

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

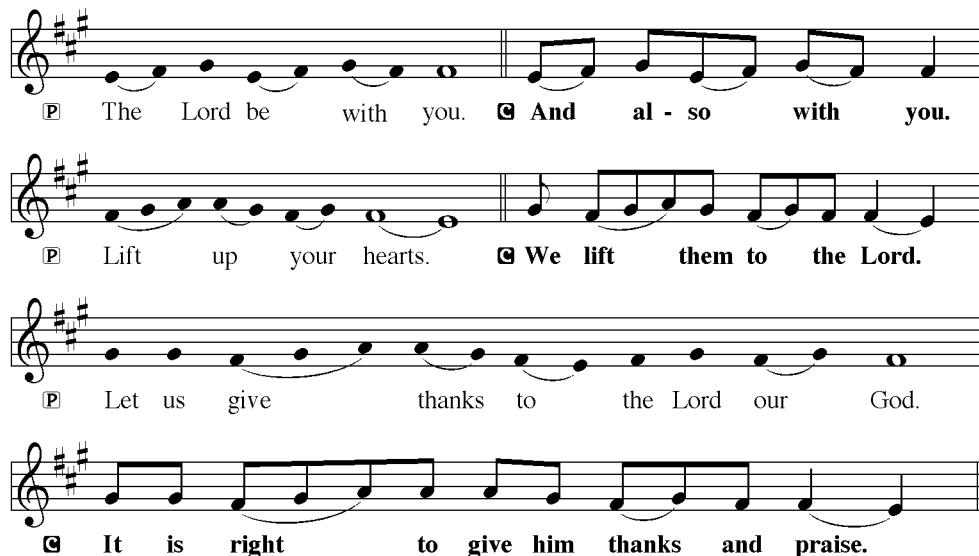
### \*THE PEACE

**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 each other.*

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

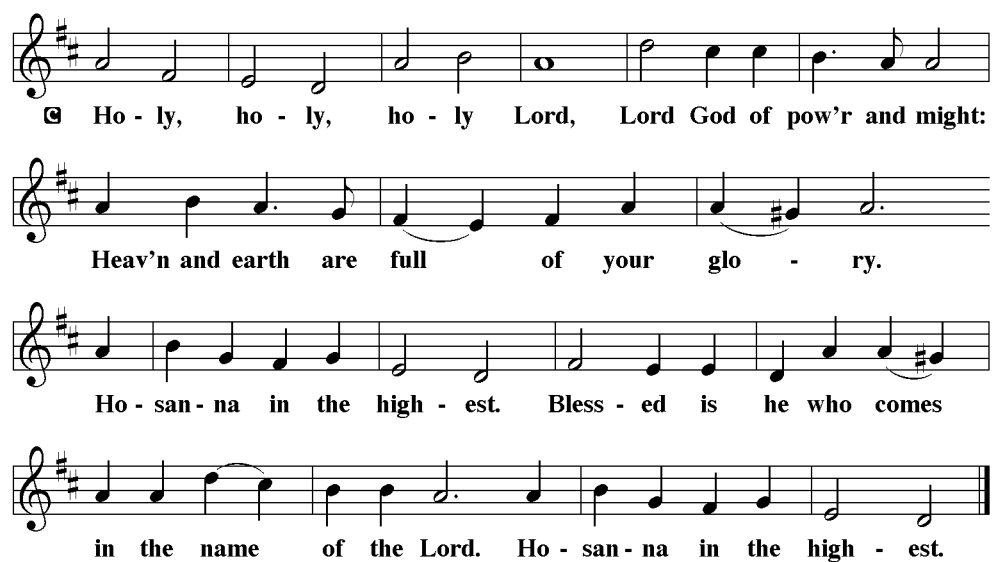
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

**C** It is right to give him 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 the Church on earth and in 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.

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**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**C** Thanks be to God!

### **\*LAMB OF GOD**



**L**amb 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**

**P** 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 This Is My Song**

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993  
Tune: FINLANDIA 11 10 11 10 11 10

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ

**C** Thanks be to God.

**\*POSTLUDE**

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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, the victims of the Surfside Building Collapse (Surfside Florida).

**CONGRATULATIONS SAM ROBINSON!** St. Mark's congratulates our organist, Sam Robinson, on the completion of his Master's Degree. Sam recently earned a Master of Music degree from Boston College. Congratulations Sam!

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Lector** Gregg Dancho  
**Cantor/Songleader and Soloist** Ray Huff  
**Organist** Sam Robinson

### **USHERS: July 4**

Carl Albright - Captain: Brenda, Owen, and Levi Gair

**Please Note: The Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some restrictions may now be lifted. Following these guidelines Church Council suggests that if you are fully vaccinated, and feel comfortable in doing so, you may remove your mask. If you are not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask. All other guidelines remain in place at this time: social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones, washing hands and using hand sanitizer often, and using “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.

**THANK YOU RAY HUFF AND MEL WENTZEL** for serving as St. Mark's representatives to our Virtual Synod Assembly, June 19, 2021.

**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!

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**(6/20/2021)**

Regular Offering	\$1,838.50
Plate Offering	\$ 30.00
Heat Envelope Fund	\$ 100.00
Food Pantry	\$ 100.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 100.00

**Grand Total                    \$2,198.50**

**(6/27/2021)**

Regular Offering	\$1,832.50
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 20.00

**Grand Total                    \$1,862.50**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+ In loving memory of Forrest and Margaret Klinger by their daughter Donna Baker and Family.

+ In honor of Cindy and Ray Huff on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary by the Family, children and grandchildren.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, JULY 5,  
IN OBERVANCE OF THE JULY 4 HOLIDAY.**

## **COMEMMORATIONS**

**Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415**

*Tuesday, July 6, 2021*

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church. He was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. Hus was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

## **A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Lord of the nations, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. Amen. *From, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, copyright 2006, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).*