

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 11, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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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)

***Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE

Beautiful Savior

Dale Wood

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 \dagger , 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

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

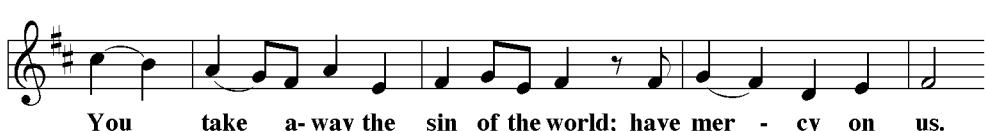
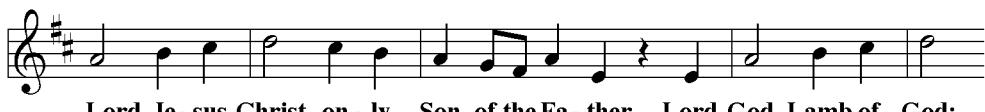
When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

*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



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Amos 7:7-15

7This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. 8And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

9the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

10Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. 11For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ ”

12And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; 13but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

14Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, 15and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM 145:1-9

8I will listen to what the LORD| God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their | hearts to you.

**9Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

10Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**11Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

12The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

**13Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Ephesians 1:3-14

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to

his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

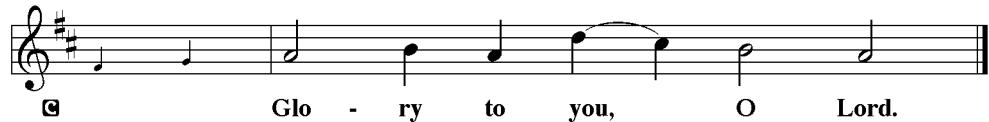
*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A musical score in G major, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "C 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 6:14-29

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

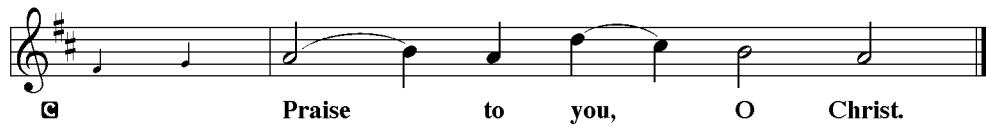


A musical score in G major, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "C Glo - ry to you, O Lord."

14King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." 15But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

17For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. 18For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." 23And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." 24She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 25Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***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

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

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

C 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Tune: HOLY MANNA

87 87 D

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Finale from Concerto No. 5

G. F. Handel

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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 Family of Norma Reid Lehman, Livi Frey.

Norma passed away on June 15, 2021. A Memorial Service is scheduled for July 31, 2021.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Lector Vicki Haussmann

Cantor/Song-leader Deb Buckman

Guest Organist Carol Waltz

USHERS: July 11

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. 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BOB SHAIBLE- JULY 25. A Memorial Service for Bob Shaible will take place at St. Mark's, Sunday, July 25, 1 pm. All are welcome.

BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. MARK'S, FRIDAY, JULY 16

St. Mark's July Blood Drive will take place in Fellowship Hall Friday, July 16, from 11am-3pm. If you are in "good health" please consider donating blood at this event. There is a critical need for type O blood especially. Check the "July Lion" for registration details.

HANNAH HAUSSMANN ON CAMP MT. LUTHER STAFF

Camp Mt. Luther, a camp of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is pleased to announce that Hannah Haussmann is part of its 2021 Summer Ministry Team. Members and friends of St. Mark's are encouraged to keep Hannah, all staff and all aspects of the camp's ministry in prayer. Mail can be sent to Hannah at Camp Mt. Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844 until August 6, 2021. Camp Mt. Luther is located five miles west of Mifflinburg, just off of Rt. 45. More information regarding the camp's ministry and mission can be found at www.campmtluther.org.

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

(7/01/2021-7/06/2021)

Regular Offering	\$5,045.50
Plate Offering	\$ 25.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 10.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 40.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 70.00
Memorials	\$ 50.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 5.00
Grand Total	\$5,295.50

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

- + In loving memory of Bill and Prudy Poff by Candy Dewar.
- + In loving memory of Mary Ditchfield by her husband Michael Ditchfield.
- + In loving memory of the Flight 800 Families by Ray and Cindy Huff.

COMMEMORATIONS

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

Monday, July 12, 2021

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566

Saturday, July 17, 2021

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Granted a large estate with indigenous slaves, he freed them after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.