

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 12, 2021**  
*God's Work/Our Hands Sunday*  
*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)  
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor  
[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



*Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!*

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

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.*

*We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.*

*Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!**

*An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**    *Chorale from Suite Gothique*    Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

**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                                    Lift High the Cross (LBW, “Green”, 377)**

***Refrain:*    Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

***Refrain***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

***Refrain***

Text: George W. Kuchin, 1827-1912; Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956  
Tune: CRUCIFER 10 10 10 10

**\*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



**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**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*Three weeks ago we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 50:4-9a**

4The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

5The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

6I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
8he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
9aIt is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 116:1-9**

1I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,  
and listened to my | supplication,  
**2for the LORD has given | ear to me**  
**whenev- | er I called.**  
3The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;  
I came to | grief and sorrow.  
**4Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**  
**“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”**  
5Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;  
our God is full | of compassion.  
**6The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;**  
**I was brought low, | and God saved me.**  
7Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.  
**8For you have rescued my | life from death,**  
**my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**  
9I will walk in the presence | of the LORD  
in the land | of the living.

**THE SECOND LESSON.....James 3:1-12**

1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the

mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. 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 8:24-37**

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

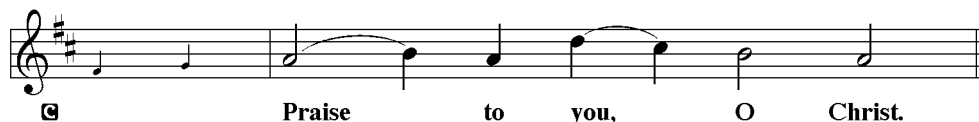
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28 And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two phrases: "The Lord be with you." and "And also with you." The second staff has two phrases: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff has one phrase: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff has one phrase: "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

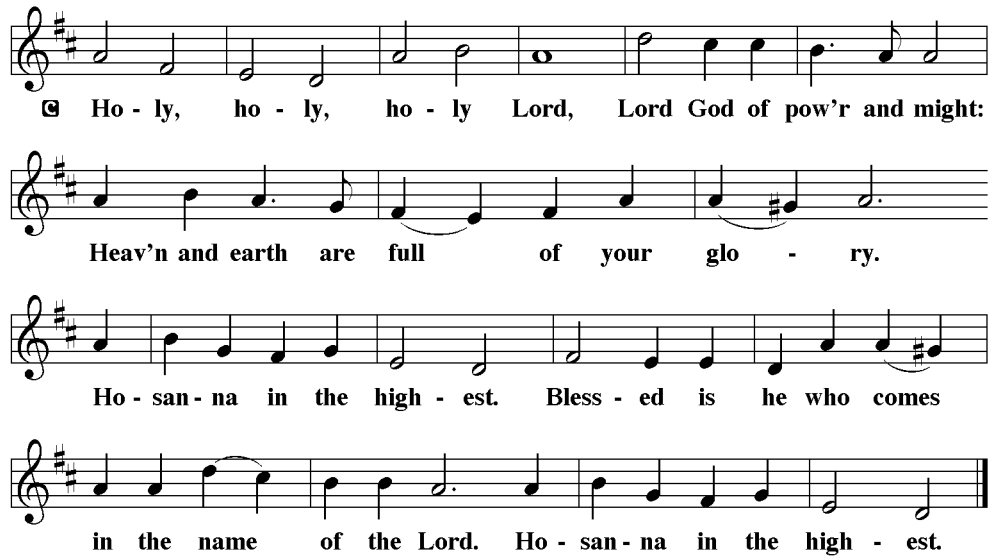
**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

**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 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

**\*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.

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

C Thanks be to God!

**THE COMMUNION**

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to*

*come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*

- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

*Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.*

## **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's Work, Our Hands**

**God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,**

**sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique*

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

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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, Susan Kalabacas, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou and Linda DeSeau, the victims and family members of COVID-19, the nation and people of Haiti, the nation and people of Afghanistan, victims of Hurricanes Henri and Ida and Forest Fires.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS (September 12)**

**Lector**                8 a.m. Becky Pryor  
                                 10:30 a.m. Gary Weber

**Cantor/Song-leader** Ray Huff

### **Communion Assistants**

8 a.m. Becky Pryor/10:30 a. m. Lou Deseau and Dan Zeigler

**Organist**             Sam Robinson

## **USHERS: September 12**

8 a.m.         Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Mike Jensen, Captain. Ushers: Gary Weber, Sean Jensen,  
Shelby Weber

**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.

**GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS DAY.** This is an annual day of service and ministry celebrated within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our second hymn, composed by Wayne L. Wold, 2019, and sung to the tune, "Earth and All Stars" was commissioned for use on this day.

**MINISTRIES FAIR TODAY.** Today St. Mark's hosts our "Ministries Fair" at 9:15 a. m. in Fellowship Hall. The Ministries Fair highlights the many ministries of our congregation. Limited refreshments and fellowship will be offered. Come, celebrate, and learn of the many ways we fulfill our Lord's mandate of ministry to society and the world.

**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES!** Sunday, September 19, 9:15 a.m., Sunday Church School resumes. All are welcome!

**PET BLESSING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2 p.m. on our “back lawn” next to the parking area.** Masks are appreciated but not mandatory. All pets welcome! Please retrain your pet. In the event of in-climate weather, the blessing will be cancelled.

**GREATER LYCOMING COUNTY CROP WALK IS OCTOBER 10, 1 p.m.!** Our team captain is **Brenda Gair (brenda1@comcast.net or 570-321-7561).** Volunteer to be a walker or sponsor!

**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!

**HURRICANE IDA:** Help support the survivors of Hurricane Ida:  
**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**P.O. Box 1809**  
**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "Hurricane Ida" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at **800-638-3522** or online (lwr.org)

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Regular Offering	\$3,310.50
Plate Offering	\$ 0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,310.50</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
+ In honor of Stefan's twenty-second birthday by the Webers.  
+ In celebration of our St. Mark's Family by the Flower Fund

### **COMEMMORATIONS**

**John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407**

*Monday, September 13, 2021*

John was a pastor in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

## **Holy Cross Day**

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

## **Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258**

*Thursday, September 16, 2021*

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

## **Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179**

*Friday, September 17, 2021*

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

## **Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**

*Saturday, September 18, 2021*

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.