

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 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.”*

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 *Salvation is Created*

Pavel Chesnokov(1877-1944)

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** **Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (LBW “Green” 423)**
Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
Tune: BEACH SPRING

***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.



C 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. Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Numbers 11:4-6. 10-16, 24-29

4The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

10Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. 11So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? 13Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. 15If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

16So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

24So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. 25Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

26Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” 28And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” 29But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19:7-14

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

**8The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | jice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

**12Who can detect one’s | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....James 5:13-20

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the

Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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.

***HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 9:38-50**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

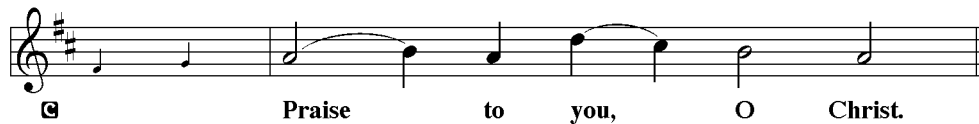
38John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40Whoever is not against us is for us. 41For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who

believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49“For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

AN ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF CAR KEYS (10:30)

***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 musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are as follows:

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

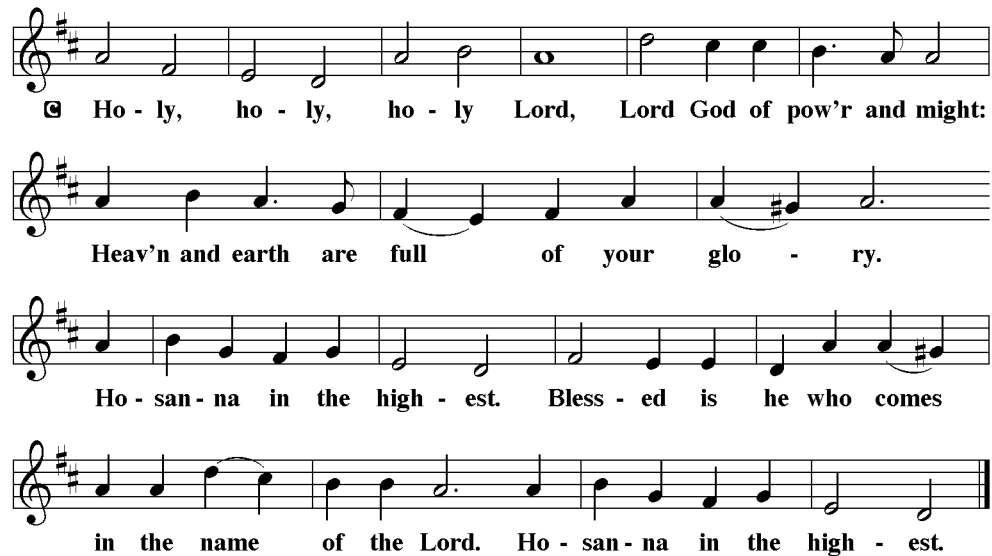
2. **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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**

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.

P All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

***THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C **Amen**

***HYMN Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (LBW “Green” 429)**

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.**

**Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav’n above
shall come the city of our God.**

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.
Tune: WALTON

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Thee We Sing* Pavel Chesnokov

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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, Jane Larson, the victims and family members of COVID-19, the nation and people of Afghanistan, Hurricane Victims, Forest Fire Victims.

WORSHIP LEADERS (September 26)

Lector 8 a.m. Ruth Rees

10:30 a.m. Mel Wentzel

Cantor/Song-leader Deb Buckman

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Becky Pryor/ 10:30 a.m. Ralph and Lou Ann

Zeigler

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS: September 26

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, Captain. Ushers: Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair

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.

CONGRATULATIONS OWEN GAIR. One of the very important days in the lives of young persons is the granting of the driver's learning permit and eventually the driver's license. Here at St. Mark's we celebrate this event with the Blessing of the Young Driver and Car Keys Liturgy. Today we honor and congratulate Owen Gair in arriving at this milestone. Owen is presented today with a keychain that bears Luther's seal to mark this day. The keychain is a reminder that God continues to bless and travel with us in all our journeys.

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 restrain 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!

OUR STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$ 3526.50 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 50.00 |
| World Hunger | \$ 50.00 |
| Disaster Relief | \$ 20.00 |
| Capital Fund | \$ 50.00 |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | \$ 120.00 |
| Global Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | \$ 50.00 |
| Grand Total | \$ 3916.50 |

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In loving memory of my sister Nancy Goertz Salades by Shirley Miller

+ In loving memory of loved ones by Donna Boston

COMMEMORATIONS

Michael and All Angels

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

AN ORDER FOR BLESSING CAR KEYS AND NEW DRIVERS

P In our mobile society, receiving a learner's permit and eventually a driver's license is a significant and meaningful transition in life, a long awaited and greatly celebrated event on the road to full adulthood. Today we recognize and honor this milestone in the life of Owen Gair. Owen, at this time please come forward with your family.

On behalf of the congregation, I ask you, will you operate your vehicle in ways that reflect Christ, reflecting patience, self-control, kindness, humility, goodness, faithfulness, love, joy and peace?

Owen I will with God's help.

P Will you give your word and promise before God and those of us who love you that you will refrain from behaviors that endanger you and others, including texting or drinking and driving?

Owen I will with God's help.

P With the help of your parents and other care-givers, will you keep your vehicle in good running order and maintain it for safety reasons and to reduce its impact on the environment?

Owen I will with the help of others.

P Parents, do you affirm and celebrate this transition in the life of your child?

Parents I do.

P By your own practices and attitudes, will you serve as good examples of Christ's disciples in every aspect of your life, including how you drive?

Parents I will with God's help.

P If the need arises, will you respond to your child's call for help and assistance, no questions asked, including any time when his driving ability may be impaired?

Parents I will with God's help.

P Owen, take the authority and the responsibility to be a driver of a motorized vehicle, and do so in the spirit of Christ.

C Amen

P This keychain presented to you bears the image of Martin Luther's seal. May it remind you in all your travels and journeys in life, that Christ, and the prayers of St. Mark's, journey with you.

The blessings of God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C Amen