

**The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
October 17, 2021**

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

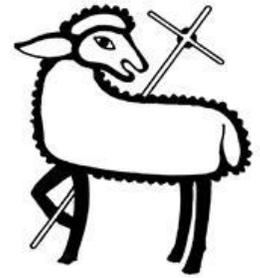
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[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** *Mitten wir im Leben sind* Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

**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 Today Your Mercy Calls Us (LBW, "Green", 304)**

Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,  
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.  
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us, how of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.  
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.  
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

## \*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. Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 53:4-12**

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

8By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

9They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

11Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

12Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 91:9-16**

9Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,

and the Most High your | habitation,

**10no evil | will befall you,**

**nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

11For God will give the angels charge | over you,

to guard you in | all your ways.

**12Upon their hands they will | bear you up,**

**lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

13You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;

you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

**14I will deliver those who | cling to me;**

**I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

15They will call me, and I will | answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

**16With long life will I | satisfy them,**

**and show them | my salvation.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 5:1-10**

1Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; 3and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. 4And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

6as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.  
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 10:35-45

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” 36 And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” 37 And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” 38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” 39 They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

# THE SERMON

## \*HYMN Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

(ELW 659)

### Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
speak the peace you long to hear.  
till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953  
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard  
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**\*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 , "Hear us , O God/Your mercy is great. "*

**\*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

**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:

**C** 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



**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.

## \*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

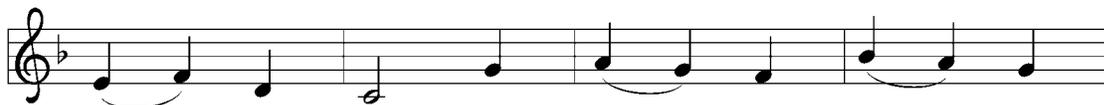
**\*HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve**

**(WOV, "Blue" 723)**

**The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve**



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
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**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Gott der Vater wohn uns bei*

Samuel Scheidt

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**Prayer List:** 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.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (10/17/21)**

**Lector** 8 a.m. Candy Dewar

10:30 a.m. Ralph Zeigler

**Cantor/Song-leader (10:30 a.m.)** Ray Huff

**Communion Assistants**

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann

10:30 a.m. Carl & Audrey Albright

**Organist** Sam Robinson

**USHERS:**

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Matt Fortin, Captain. Ushers: Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler

**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.

**PUMPKIN CARVING , OCTOBER 23, 5 P.M.** Join us in Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun and fellowship as pumpkins become “Jack-O-Lanterns”. Pumpkins and carving tools will be provided but please RSVP by October 20 to Vicki Haussmann (570-447-3263) or sign-up in the Narthex.

**MESSIAH'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA** invite the women of St. Mark's to hear **Lauren Leshner**, Pennsylvania State Police Community Service Officer, on the topic of **"PROTECT YOURSELF"** from Scams and Fraud. This will take place Tuesday, October 26 at 7 P.M. in Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport (Shaheen Hall). If attending please call 570-584-5814 by October 20 so we have the correct number for handouts and refreshments.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31.** Reformation Sunday will serve as our Consecration Sunday (the day we return our pledges for the next calendar year). On October 31 please bring with you to worship your completed "Estimate of Giving Card" from the October Lion. As you exit from either worship service, place the card along with your church offering in the basket provided. Reformation Sunday provides an excellent opportunity to show our gratitude to God for sharing with us Christ's gifts of acceptance, love, grace, forgiveness, life, life eternal and faith. Join us on October 31 as we say, "thank you" to God for sharing with us all the blessings we enjoy.

**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!

### **INSTALLATION**

The Rev. Jeffrey L. LeCrone will be installed as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church (1400 Market St., Williamsport, PA), Saturday, October 23, 2021, 11 A.M.. A catered lunch will follow. For a meal, please RSVP to 570-323-7309. All are welcome !

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Regular Offering	\$ 4147.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 20.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 10.00
Blanket Appeal	\$ 10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 4227.00</b>

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

+ In loving memory of Nathan Young, by his parents, Sarah and Paul Young and his siblings, Matt and Jessica.

+ In loving memory of Ed and Mary Gair by their children and grandchildren.

**Bulletin Sponsor :**

+ In memory of my father, Donald F. Ochs, (June 14, 1913 to October 17, 1987), by his son Michael Ochs.

**COMMEMORATIONS**

**Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115**

*Sunday, October 17, 2021*

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

**Luke, Evangelist**

*Monday, October 18, 2021*

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

**James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62**

*Saturday, October 23, 2021*

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.