

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 30, 2022
in the 169th year of the Parish
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) FAX (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor



Welcome to St. 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 at St. Mark's. Thank you!

A Guide to Hymnal Use:

LBW refers to our Green Hymnal

WOV refers to our Blue Hymnal

An Order for Holy Eucharist, Setting One, Lutheran Book of Worship

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele

Walther

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son 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 to 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, Whose Almighty Word LBW, “Green”, 400**

***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.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, 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. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS:

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 1:4-10

4Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

5“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

6Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” 7But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

8Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

9Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

10See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 71:1-6

1In you, O LORD, have I | taken refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.

**2In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;
incline your ear to | me and save me.**

3Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
you are my crag | and my stronghold.

4Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor.

5For you are my hope, | O Lord GOD,
my confidence since | I was young.

**6I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb
you have | been my strength;
my praise shall be al- | ways of you.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

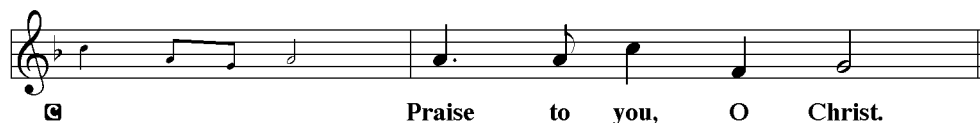
***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 4:21-30**

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



P 21Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN O Word of God Incarnate LBW, “Green”, 231**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us 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 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.**

***THE PRAYERS**

After each petition: God of Grace/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.

ANTHEM (10:30 A.M.) *Once He Came In Blessing* Mark Sedio


***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 all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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**

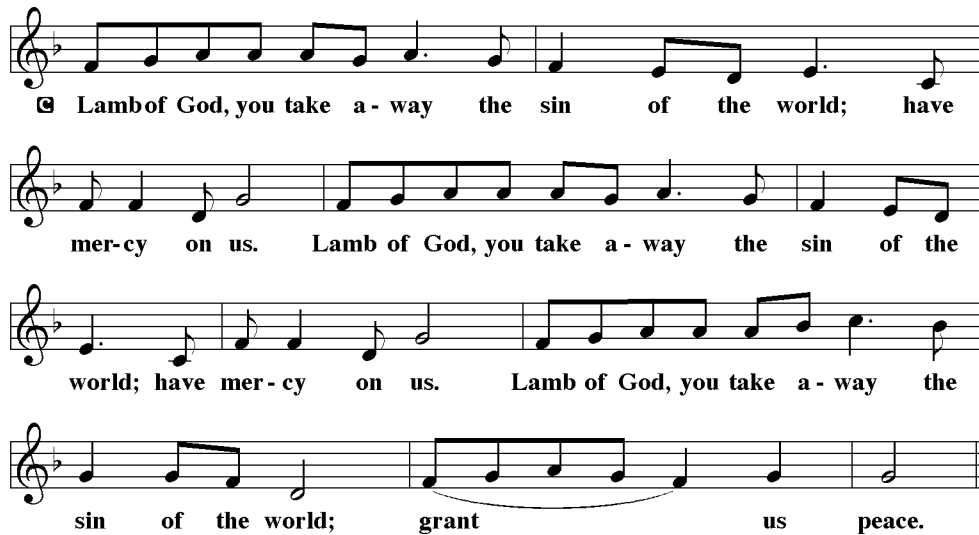
P Let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

**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.

***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 Come to the feast in the light of Christ!

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.

Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

*BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, Son † and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*HYMN O Zion, Haste LBW, "Green", 397

*DISMISSAL

P Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Herr Christ der einig Gottes Sohn* Walther

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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, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Hausmann and Lou DeSeau.

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/30/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Ruth Rees
 10:30 a.m. Brenda Gair

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Becky Pryor
10:30 a.m. Gregg Dancho & Dan Zeigler

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff
10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, Captain. 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.

DO YOU ENJOY QUILTING?

St. Mark's would like to "resurrect" our Quilting Ministry! If you like to sew or quilt or are just interested contact Wanda Fortin at 570-584-6403 or wmariefort@gmail.com.

THE AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is located in the hallway outside of the chapel.

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!

A LETTER FROM THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

My sisters and brothers in Christ —

What an honor to have been chosen to serve as president of our congregation and the Church Council for 2022. Thank you for your confidence and support.

It pleases me to be serving alongside members of the Church Council. Other officers elected for this year are vice - president, Melvin Wentzel; secretary, Vicki Haussmann; and treasurer, Pamela Jensen. Together, with leadership from Pastor Vasey, we look forward to a year of opportunities “to know Christ and to make Christ known.”

We welcome your ideas. They may be shared with any of us on Church Council. In addition to the officers, other members include Robert Campbell, Kathy Dancho, Wanda Fortin, Edward Gair, Ray Huff, Herbert Poff, Linda Rosini, and Glenn Yapple.

Or, your thoughts may be sent to me via email at zeigler17702@msn.com or by calling **570-772-3920**.

St. Mark’s has a rich and wonderful history, and we want to help ensure a strong future. Together we can.

May God continue to bless us and our congregation.

Yours in Christ—

Ralph Zeigler

WE HAVE HAD AN EPIPHANY! Our signboard announced an Epiphany has happened! Indeed the light of Christ has come and in response to his light Council has approved two changes in the names of two of our Church Committees:

“Outreach” will now be called, “Evangelism and Fellowship”. Why the change? Evangelism and Fellowship more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Every extension of hospitality, good and help we share with others is related to the Good News. Kiwanis, Rotary, Moose, etc., reach out to people in similar ways doing similar things but only the church does what it does as followers of Jesus. The name change keeps before us why this committee “does what it does”.

“Faith and Fellowship” will now be called, “Faith Formation”. Why the change? Faith Formation more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Sunday School, Family Activities, Adult Education, and Confirmation all seek to inform our faith. Christian Education is not limited to one age-level in the church. We are to have a “life-long learning encounter with Christ.” The name change reminds us what scripture proclaims: “In following Jesus we are the students of the Master Teacher.”

Committee Chairpersons, Committee Members, Pastor Vasey and Members of Council are welcoming of these changes. Please keep these committees, and all ministries of the church before the Lord in prayer as we all strive to serve Christ in faith.

OUR STEWARDSHIP (1/23/2022)

Regular Offering	\$ 3,208.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 5.00
Shepherd of the Street	\$ 20.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Grand Total	\$ 3,263.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In honor of all the medical personnel who continue to care for their patients during this difficult time, by Vicki and Drew Haussmann.

COMMEMORATIONS

Presentation of Our Lord

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel. Traditionally, this was often called "Candlemas", the day when the candles for the year were blessed ("a light to lighten the Gentiles", as Simeon sings in Luke 2:22-40). The mention of "light" is a rationale for why this day is also celebrated as "Groundhog Day".

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Thursday, February 3, 2022

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.