

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 20, 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 Ten, Evangelical Lutheran Worship

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Jesus, Still Lead On

Paul Manz

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 God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Kneel as able. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life †.

C **Amen.**

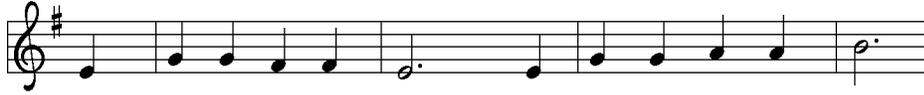
***HYMN Glories of Your Name are Spoken LBW, "Green", 358**

***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.**

*KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS:

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 55:1-9

1Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

6Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

7let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8

1O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there | is no water.

**2Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

3For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.

**4So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

5My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

**6when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

7For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

**8My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 13:1-9**

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P 1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.2[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

6Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

***HYMN** **As the Sun with Longer Journey** **WOV, “Blue”, 655**

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us affirm our faith.

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***THE PRAYERS**

After each petition: Merciful God/Receive 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

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 our 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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to children of God. 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-er 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, 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**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***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 at this time. Thank You!

P Here is food and drink for the journey. Come and be filled.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray. Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.

C **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

***HYMN**

Jesus Still Lead On

LBW, “Green”, 341

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Arnold Cooke

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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, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau and Jeremy Splain, Marion Waldeisen, Ryan Dancho, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

WORSHIP LEADERS (3/20/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Drew Haussmann
 10:30 a.m. Gregg Dancho

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann
10:30 a.m. Gregg Dancho & Dan Zeigler

Guest Organist Carol Waltz

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

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

WELCOME CAROL WALTZ. Carol is serving as our guest organist today. We thank Carol for sharing her talents with us on this Lord's Day.

TEMPLE TALK. Hannah Haussmann shares her 2021 camping experience at Camp Mt. Luther.

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 Kathy Dancho at 570-435-2716 or dancho2@verizon.net.

THE AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and first aid kit are located in the hallway outside of the chapel.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, 12:15 – 12:45 p.m., Wednesdays through April 6 in Fellowship Hall. "Conversation and Catechism" will explore the scripture texts of Luther's Small Catechism. No meal will be served but feel free to bring a "bag lunch" if you so desire. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. All are welcome!

LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP. St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program was established by the congregation of the former St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport to benefit Lutheran students of Lycoming County. Students who wish to apply to the scholarship program should complete an online application at <https://www.thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships>. Applications, transcripts, community service resume, and one online recommendation are due by April 29, 2022. For additional information contact Dave Zastrow, Donor Services Associate at 800-365-4172 or to Tcscholarships@thrivent.com.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Rest assured that gifts to Eastern Europe Crisis Response will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Should you wish to contribute please make checks payable to St. Mark's and note, "Ukraine" on the memo line. Thank you for your gifts and prayers for the people of Ukraine.

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!

FAMILY PROMISE. Family Promise is up and running again with families staying at the Center. St. Mark’s is scheduled for March 27-April 2, July 10-16, Oct. 16-22 and Dec. 11-17. Our commitment at this point would be providing evening meals. I will be getting in touch with our “cooks” later this month. Thank You! Deb Buckman.

OUR STEWARDSHIP (3/13/2022)

Regular Offering	\$ 2, 165.00
Lent	\$ 105.00
World Hunger	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00
Global Mission	\$ 50.00
Sunday School	\$ 21.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 500.00
Flower Memorials/ Tributes	\$ 60.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 140.00
Grand Total	\$ 3,161.00

BULLETIN SPONSOR Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+ In loving memory of my parents Allen and Josephine Malick by Cheryl Williams.
+ In honor of family by Karen and Steve Mariano.

COMMEMORATIONS

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Monday, March 21, 2022

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of Reformation Theologians.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Friday, March 25, 2022

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The early church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.