

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 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.
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.

New COVID-19 Guidelines:

- **Hand Sanitizer is available for your use.**
- **Face masks are optional.**
- **Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.**
- **Please continue to observe social distancing and our directives as to where to sit.**

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

Aberystwyth

G. Nera

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.**

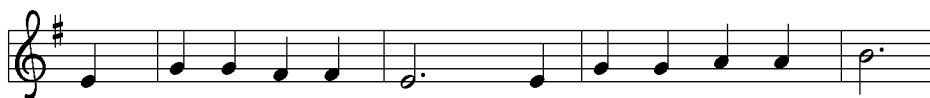
***HYMN Come Thou Font of Every Blessing LBW, “Green”, 499**

***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. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his lost son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

THE FIRST LESSON.....Joshua 5:9-12

9The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32

1Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

2Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

3While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

**4For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me
the guilt | of my sin.

**6Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

7You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**8"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

**10Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32**

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

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

P 1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3So he told them this parable: 11b“There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with

me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN** **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound** **LBW, “Green”, 448**

***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*

ANTHEM

Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee

Luther

***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

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** **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy** **LBW, "Green", 290**

***DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gethsemane

D. Cherwien

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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 (3/27/2022)

Lector 8 a.m. Leah Hausmann
 10:30 a.m. Linda Rosini

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Becky Pryor
10:30 a.m. Carl and Audrey Albright

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

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

EASTER HUNGER MEMORIALS/DEDICATIONS

While the deadline for Easter Flowers has passed, there is still time to share Hunger Memorials /Dedications for Easter Sunday. If you wish to participate, please share these with Church Office by April 3, 2022.

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 (3/20/2022)

Regular Offering	\$2,725.00
Lent	\$ 35.00
Sunday School	\$ 7.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 575.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 112.00
Grand Total	\$3,484.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In loving memory of all our Loved Ones by Gary and Donna Clark.

+ In celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 10: The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

8 a.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (Nave)
Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday
12:15 p.m. Holy Communion (Chapel)
7:30 p.m. Holy Communion and Stripping of the Church (Nave)
Friday, April 15: Good Friday
Noon-3 p.m. "The Way of the Cross"; Meditation and Prayer (Nave)
Noon Community Service at St. Luke Lutheran
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae; Service of Shadows (Nave)
Saturday, April 16: Holy Saturday
8 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter (Chapel moving to Nave)
Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday
8 a.m. Holy Communion (Nave)
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (Nave)

COMMEMORATIONS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Thursday, March 31, 2022

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.