

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 15, 2023**

“Ordinary Time”

in the 170^h 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

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: *“To know Christ and to make Christ known.”*



Our 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 when passing the peace.

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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 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.

The congregation may kneel.

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 holy 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN O God, My Faithful God**

LBW, "Green", 504

***THE GREETING**

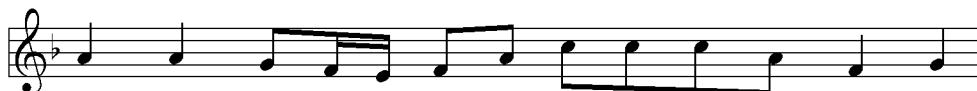
P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Listen to me, O coastlands,
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
 The LORD called me before I was born,
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
 he made me a polished arrow,
 in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain,
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
 yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
 and my reward with my God."

5 And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
 for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—

6 he says,
 "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 40:1-11

1I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

**2The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

3The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

4Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies.

5Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,
none can be com- | pared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I
can count.

6Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;

**you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not
required.**

7And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

**8‘I love to do your will, | O my God;
your law is | deep within me.’”**

9I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

10I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your

faithfulness and | your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.

11 You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.

THE SECOND READING.....First Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 HOLY GOSPEL.....John 1:29-42**

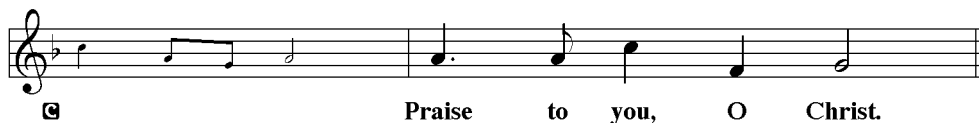
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

29[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

WOV, “Blue”, 768

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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, “Merciful God/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



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. 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:



C 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 You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all goodness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all.

We praise you for your grace and promises revealed to your people.
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son who fulfills your promises.

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.

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 all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants in every time and place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

***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;

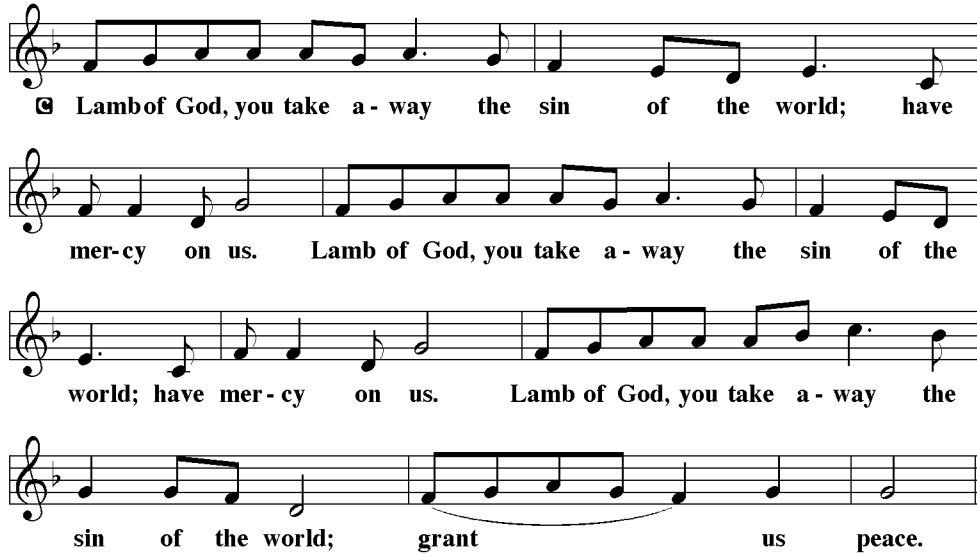
and lead us not into temptation,

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.

*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 as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *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.

P Come and taste the joy of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

***HYMN Jesus Calls Us;O'er the Tumult LBW, "Green", 494**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, 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, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ray Huff, Matt Fortin.

WORSHIP LEADERS (January 15, 2023)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Candy Dewar
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
Communion	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
Assistants		
	10:30 a.m.	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 a.m.	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler
Altar Guild	January	Deb Buckman and Leah Haussmann

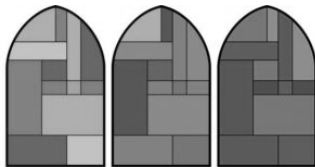


READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



OUR STEWARDSHIP (January 8, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$5,287.00	
Christmas and Advent	100.00	
Bulletin Sponsor	20.00	
Initial Offering	60.00	
	Miscellaneous	46.00
Global Mission	25.00	
Sunday School Offering	8.00	
Parish Life	34.00	
Operation Christmas Child	50.00	
Disaster Relief	40.00	
Flower Memorials / Tributes	120.00	
Synod Benevolence	25.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,815.00	



Bulletin & Announcements

BULLETIN SPONSOR Special thanks to Richard and Charlotte Reitz for sponsoring this week's bulletin.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Honor of Anna's and Laura's 24th birthday by Dan and Diana Zeigler
 +In Celebration of our Saint Marks's family



UNITED CHURCHES of
LYCOMING COUNTY

Join us on a visit to the
 UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
 MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

February 20th, 2023

\$70 includes bus transportation and entrance to the Museum.

5:45am: Depart Williamsport | 10:00am: Arrive at Museum

Limited to 56 people, so reserve your spot today!

Email: office@uclc.org or call: 570-322-1110



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY AND DREAM WEEK

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the 'Beloved Community' of Dr. King's dream.

Dr. King's acknowledgement and fight for systemic change serves as the call to action for the Day of Service.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.

STEP AmeriCorps, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, and the United Churches of Lycoming County are once again partnering for a week full of events, including a Peace Walk, starting at noon on Monday, Jan. 16. The walk will begin at the Jackie Robinson statue at the corner of Third and Market with a few words from Dr. Nate Woods of Penn College. Participants will depart on an approximately one-mile loop and return to the statue.

A full schedule of events can be found at STEPcorp.org/mlk





The Philadelphia Eagles? The Minnesota Vikings? The Kansas City Chiefs? The San Francisco 49ers? Buffalo Bills? What on earth do these names even mean? It means that the football season is drawing to a close and Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching

Whether you are a football fanatic or are just in it for the snacks, "Souper Bowl Sunday" gives us a wonderful opportunity to also think about others in our community. This year "Souper Bowl Sunday" is February 12th, which means there are 2 full weeks in February to collect cans of soup . Our "Famous Football Tubs" will be in the Narthex ready to accept your donations of soup (or other non perishable food) on Feb. 5th and Feb.12th. If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made (checks should be earmarked for Souper Bowl of Caring). Monetary donations will be used to buy \$15 gift cards for the United Churches Food Pantry.

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring 30+ years ago: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat".

We are looking forward to coming together as a congregation to see what we can do together to help fight hunger here in Williamsport. On the count of three, 1-2-3- St. Mark's!

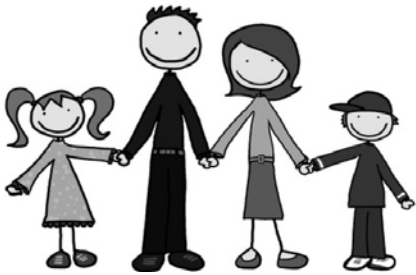


PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday January 18th at 6 PM.

Please let Drew Hausmann know if you will be attending. Drew Hausmann at drewhausmann@gmail.com

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE



Family Promise a big thank-you goes out to those cooks who did a heroic deed right before Christmas. Your meals were greatly appreciated. Please mark your calendars for the following weeks: March 26-April 2, July 9-16, Oct 15-22, and Dec 10-17. At this point we are only providing meals which means those persons who were overnight hosts could you possibly become a cook? For more information on how to be involved contact Deb Buckman at dabuckman65@gmail.com.

Lutheran World Relief - again thank you to all who made kits and helped pack them for shipment. Now is the time to look at the January White Sales to get towels and wash clothes cheap for the personal care kits. Summer baby items are on the clearance rack - remember that the tops cannot be the snap bottoms and the sleepers cannot be footie type. Don't wait until September to do your shopping! For more information contact Deb Buckman at dabuckman65@gmail.com.



Deadline for February “Lion”

Tuesday, January 24 is the deadline for the February edition of “The Lion”. Please make sure all articles and submissions are in to Joe Baur ([jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbauer@stmarkswilliamsport.org)) by that date. We will put together “The Lion” and mail out it on Friday, January 27. Anyone who would like to help is welcomed to join us.



MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDARS

February 19, The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

February 21, *Shrove Tuesday*.

February 22, Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion, 12:15 a.m. (Chapel)

Holy Communion, 7 p.m. (Nave)



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

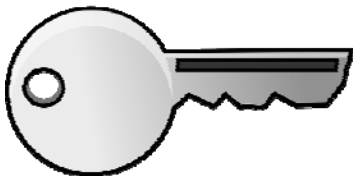
The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying *Living the Kingdom; Reflections on the Small Catechism*. We meet in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.



God's Work
OUR HANDS

CAN YOU HELP?

St. Mark's is looking for additional volunteers for Ushers, Communion Assistants and Lectors.



SAFETY COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Saint Mark's safety would like to remind all members to be diligent in checking the church doors are securely closed. Please check that the outside door just used is fully closed AND locked behind you upon entering / exiting the building.

COMMEMORATIONS



Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Sunday, January 15, 2023

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.



Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.



Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.



Confession of Peter

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

On this date the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." His confession serves as a fitting beginning to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the week in which we remind ourselves that all Christians are united in their witness of Jesus as Lord and Savior.



Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

Thursday, January 19, 2023

When Erik, King of Sweden, journeyed to Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.



Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.