

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 29, 2023**

*“Ordinary Time”*

*in the 170<sup>h</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!*

*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**

*Hostis Herodes impie*

G. Fasolo

**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 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 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng! (stanzas 1-4) LBW, "Green", 553**

**\*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 Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

**THE FIRST READING.....Micah 6:1-8**

1Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

2Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

3“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

5O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

6“With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

7Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 15**

1LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**2Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**4In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear  
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

5They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst  
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

### **THE SECOND READING.....First Corinthians 1:18-31**

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us  
who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this  
age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the  
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,  
through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For  
Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ

crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the 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.....Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

1

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.



**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**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.



Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ 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:

♩ 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 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**                      **Let Justice Flow like Streams**                      **WOV, “Blue”, 763**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**                      *Te Deum Laudamus*                      G. Fasolo





**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 22, 2023)**

Regular Offerings	\$3,459.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Initial Offering	5.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	105.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Disaster Relief	50.00
Capital Fund	125.00
Synod Benevolence	20.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,941.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
 +In Honor of all the Medical Personnel who continue to take care of their patients during this difficult time, by the Haussmann’s  
 +In Celebration of our Saint Mark’s Family

**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.

## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No Meetings are scheduled this week.

Please update the Administrative Assistant, Joe Baur, of the date of Committee Meetings and Times so they can be included weekly in the bulletin. Thanks.

*There is a folder in the Administrative Assistant Office (Joe Baur) that has copies of committee meeting minutes. Minutes can be reviewed at any time. When possible, please send them to me and I will include them.*

*Thanks, Joe.*



In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized others across the country to raise more than \$100 million since its inception for people in need.

This February, St. Mark's will once again join churches all across the country in the Souper Bowl of Caring and collect money and food for the hungry and homeless in our community. Our donations of non-perishable food items will be given to the United Churches Food Pantry to help stock their shelves. Monetary donations (please mark checks with Souper Bowl) will be used to buy \$15.00 grocery store gift cards to be quietly given to families in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference!

## “GROW IN THE SNOW” YOUTH RETREAT



“Grow in the Snow”, a winter youth retreat for Grades 6-12 will be held at Camp Mt. Luther March 17, 6:30 pm- March 18, 4 p.m. Cost: Both days is \$66.00; Saturday only \$45.00. Please register by March 10. Details are available by contacting the Church Office (Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 570-323-4619 or [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)).



## A TASTE OF CAMP

Hungry for camp but can't wait till the summer? Always wanted to try camp but not sure you'll like it?

### ***THIS IS FOR YOU***

- When Sunday, February 5 from 2-5 p.m.
- What Songs – games – food – campfire 2023 program release
- Who Returning campers  
New campers  
Still-on-the-fence-about-it camper  
Parents  
Camp persons and anyone else who wants to come to have a good time.
- Where Camp Mount Luther, of course!
- Questions? Contact us at 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.  
cml@campmountluther.org Phone 570-922-1587

### ***HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY:***

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

Tuesday, February 21, *Shrove Tuesday (Faustnacht Day)*  
6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall: Donuts, Faustnachts, Coffee and Conversation  
6:50 p.m., Burning Ashes for Ash Wednesday from last year's palms  
7:05 p.m., Liturgy to "Bury the Alleluia" in preparation for Lent.

Wednesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, 12:15 a.m. (Chapel)  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, 7 p.m. (Nave)

Sunday, February 26, First Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

## COMMEMORATIONS



### **Presentation of Our Lord**

*Thursday, February 2, 2023*

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 (Luke 2:22-38).



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

*Friday, February 3, 2023*

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.