

The First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023
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

Choral Dorien

Jehan Allain

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

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 forgiveness,

and grow into the fulness of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The congregation may kneel.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us.**

In your compassion forgive us 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 you all your sins
through Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit †
keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

***HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

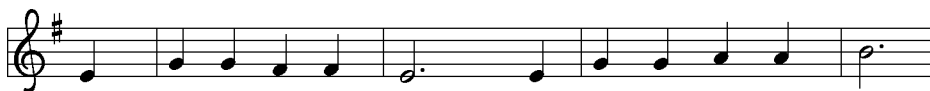
LBW, "Green", 229

***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.

***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. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

THE FIRST READING.....Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

15The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3:1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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 READING.....Romans 5:12-19

12Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by

the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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 HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 4:1-11**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

1Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN O Lord, throughout These Forty Days LBW, "Green", 99**

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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 with limited physical contact.*

ANTHEM *O Bone Jesus* Palestrina

The Italian composer **Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina** (1526-1594) was a crucial musical figure in the development of sacred music during the Renaissance period; he was considered the leading composer in Europe in the 16th century. He is remembered for his masses and motets. This setting of *O bone Jesu* for four voices (SATB) represents just one of his sacred motets—out of over 200 in total. The Latin text translates to “O good Jesus, have mercy upon us, for thou hast created us, thou hast redeemed us by thy most precious blood.” As we begin the season of Lent, Palestrina’s motet reminds us of what is at the end of our forty-day journey: redemption.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

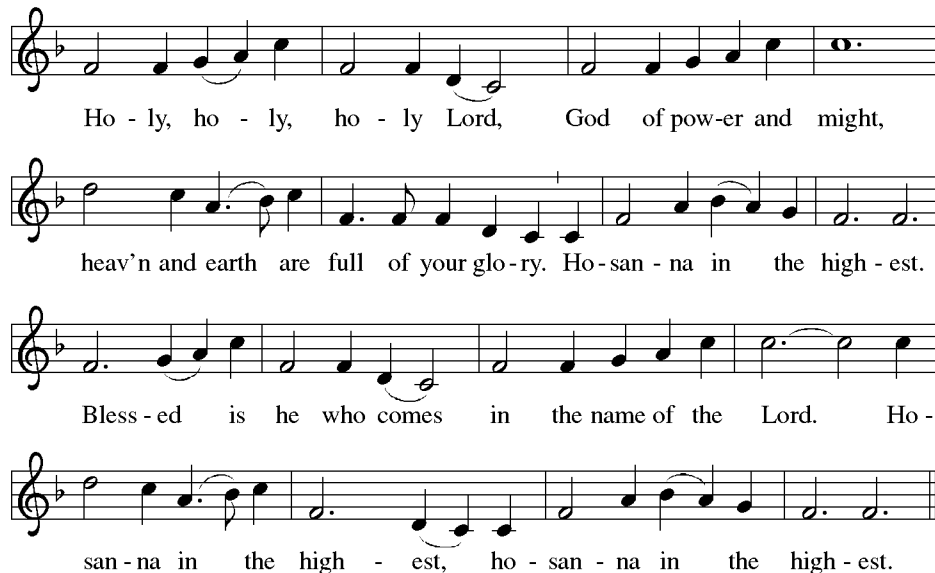
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in 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 in faith and life, and bring us to the fulness of grace that belongs to the 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 Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit
into our hearts and on these gifts
that we may receive our Lord
with a living faith
as he comes to us
in this his holy supper.

C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 to 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 Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 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 receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

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. Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
‡, give you peace.

C Amen.

***HYMN** **Jesus, Still Lead On** **LBW, “Green”, 341**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Olivet Karl Osterland

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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, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ray Huff, Matt Fortin, Steve Beiber, Kitty Welch.



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 (February 19, 2023)

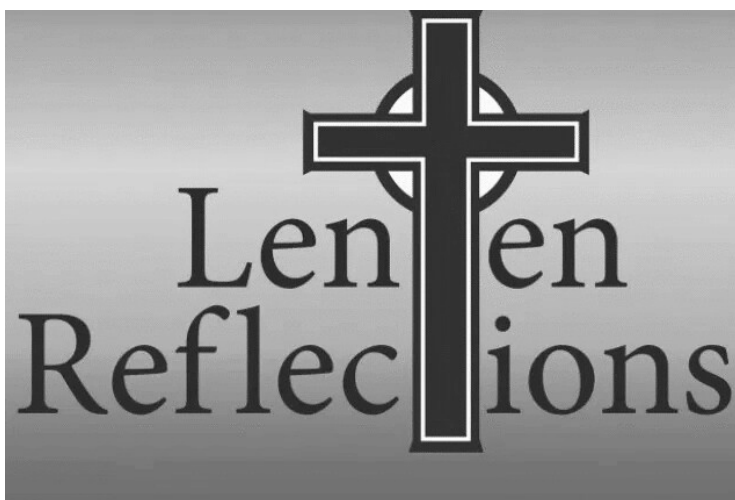
Regular Offering	\$1,975.00
Plate Offerings	21.00
Parish Life	90.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	30.00
Memorials	160.00
Synod Benevolence	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,301.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+ In Honor of our Saint Mark’s family

WORSHIP LEADERS (February 26, 2023)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Candy Dewar
	10:30 a.m.	Ray Huff
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber and Charles Kurtz
Altar Guild	February	Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel



**Midweek Lenten Series:
Making Change
Wednesdays in Lent (March 1-29),
12:15 p.m., Chapel**

Change is a constant in our lives. Some changes mark gradual transitions, as when daytime shifts toward twilight or winter turns to spring. Others happen in the blink of an eye, separating time into “before” and “after”. We choose to undergo some changes after carefully considering our options, while others are forced upon us.

In the weeks, days, and hours before Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples also experienced change: a change of venue as the gates of Jerusalem approached; a change of plans as their long-awaited Messiah was arrested and tried; a change of circumstance as the crowds shouted “Crucify!”

Change is hard. We long for the expected and familiar, but all too often find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and the unknown. We cannot predict how things will turn out. The hymnwriter Joachim Neander proclaimed God’s steadfast love in the midst of life’s inevitable changes: “All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, from thy throne call my heart to be thine.” (WOV 782).

Each Wednesday in Lent we will explore together how in the midst of change, God in Christ is always with us.

All are welcome!



Right now, your congregations can rush aid to our neighbors devastated by the earthquake in Turkey. Lutheran World Relief teams are already coordinating a response, and it is your congregations' compassion and generosity that will rush emergency care. Gifts to LWR's emergency response fund will deliver critically needed care for families like water, medical care, shelter and

essential supplies. Congregations and their members can give online at **lwr.org/quake** or mail a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **QUAKE** in the memo.

THIS WEEK IN YOUR CHURCH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 27	Civic Chorus Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 28		
Wednesday, March 1	Mid-Week Lent Service (Chapel)	12:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 2		
Friday, March 3		
Saturday, March 4		
Sunday, March 5	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Gary Clark	February 27
Ralph Zeigler, Jr.	February 29 (Leap Day Birthday)
Jane Kline	February 29 (Leap Day Birthday)
Theodore Comerford	March 1

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, February 27	Saint Mark's Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
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If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week In Your Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



Special Happy Birthday to Pastor Vasey today. Have a Wonderful Day from everyone here at Saint Mark's.

Special Insert in this week's bulletin.
Easter Flower Order envelopes are included.
Missing or need more they are available in the Narthex.

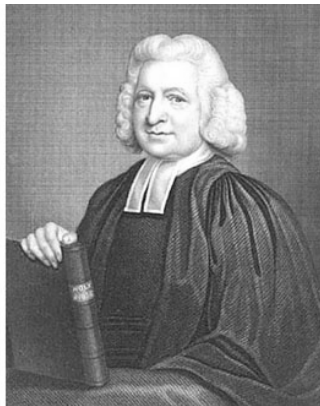
COMMEMORATIONS



George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a pastor in the Church of England. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.



John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Thursday, March 2, 2023

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.