

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 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

Aberystwyth

Gerald Nera

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.

P Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

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.

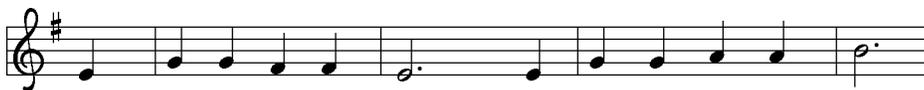
***HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing** **LBW, “Green”, 499**

***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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our
thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the
well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

THE FIRST READING.....Exodus 17:1-7

1From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

1Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

2Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.

3For you, LORD, | are a great God,

and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

**4In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

5The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

**6Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

7For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep | of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

**8"Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

9There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

**10Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**

11Indeed I swore | in my anger,
'They shall never come | to my rest.'"

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 5:1-11

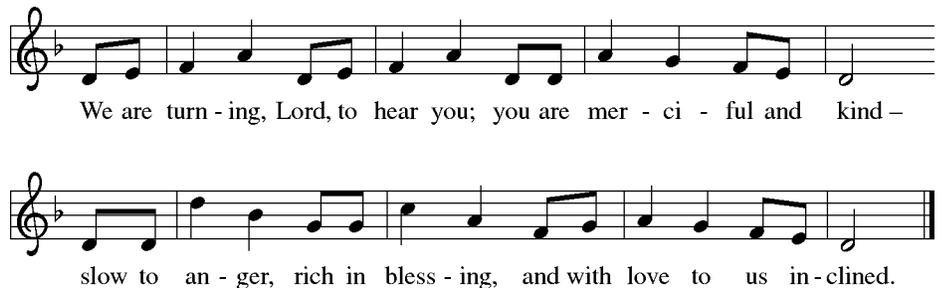
1Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11But more than that, we even boast in God through our

Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
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.....John 4:5-42**

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

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

5[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.6Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” 13Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” 15The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” 17The woman

answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." 26Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

27Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" 28Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30They left the city and were on their way to him.

31Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" 34Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

39Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two

days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts**

LBW, “Green”, 356

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us 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.*

***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 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 for all to drink,

***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 Glories of Your Name Are Spoken LBW, “Green”, 358**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Gethsemane David Cherwien

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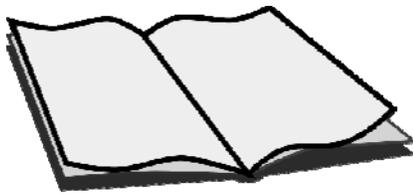


**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

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, Steve Beiber.

WORSHIP LEADERS (March 12, 2023)

Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Pastor Vasey
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Matt Fortin, Captain Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler
Altar Guild	March	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



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 (March 5, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$4,934.00
Lent	321.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
Food Pantry	120.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	60.00
Memorials	150.00
Easter Flowers	212.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,814.50



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Elmer D. and Eva F. Hunt, William W. and Frederica Bastian by Romain and Evelyn Bastian.
+In Honor of our aunt, Roxie Larson and in Memory of our aunt, Marian Larson by Nancy and Ernie Larson.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)



There is a great need for personal care kits for the victims of the Turkey earthquake and for war victims in the Ukraine. Kits are composed of a bath towel (dark color preferred-regular size not a bath blanket), 2 bars of soap, a comb, a toothbrush, and a nail clipper. You can provide a complete kit or bring in any of the components of the kit and I will make sure to complete the kit. Monetary donations are also welcome-make out to St. Mark's with LWR kits in the memo line.



Family Promise

Hosting for Family Promise will begin March 26. Chefs are needed to prepare dinner for the families. Alternatives to cooking are take-out, pizza, providing the components for one of the guests to do the cooking. More information will be given toward the end of the month. If you can provide a dinner (in any form), please let me know. dabuckman65@gmail.com or 570-323-1707



"The St Mark's property committee would like to invite all church members to a Spring work day. Various tasks around the building need to be taken care of as we prepare for Easter and Spring! No special skills are needed; all we are asking for is some enthusiasm! We will serve coffee and breakfast snacks! Please join us for fellowship and fun, and help us care for the church building we all treasure." We will gather Saturday, March 25, 2023 to plan the day's events in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair
St Mark's Property Committee



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks everyone who sent Valentine's Day cards to our Special Concern folks and others. We are certain there were many smiles by those receiving them.

We need the congregation's help, once again, in sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.

Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, March 26, 2023 before and after each service. Please add a cheery message, affix a stamp and mail in time for Easter on Sunday, April 9, 2023. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.



The deadline for the April Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023**. We will put the newsletter together and mail it out on **TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023**.

Please have articles in by the deadline. Thank You.

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.



Can You Help?

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

Contact us at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

For more information or to sign-up.

A Table Prayer for Lent

Be present with us as we
are fed in body and spirit
that our sharing this meal
is a sign of your life broken
and shared for the world.

#Bread4theDay



...

God embraces you
with divine mercy,
forgives you
in Christ's name,
revives you
in the Spirit's power.

...





March 13-March 19, 2023

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 13	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14		
Wednesday, March 15	Mid-Week Service of the Word (Chapel)	12:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 16		
Friday, March 17		
Saturday, March 18		
Sunday, March 19	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Romain Bastian	March 14
Roxanna Larson	March 15
Eileen Georg	March 16
Robert Jones	March 16
Dinah Labenberg	March 16
Hannah Lynn	March 16
Diane Bardsley	March 18

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, March 15	Property Committee 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

COMMEMORATIONS

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a

lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.



Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

Friday, March 17, 2023

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

