

**The Sunday of the Passion
(Palm Sunday)**

April 2, 2023

in the 170th 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 *Ellacombe* J. Wayne Kerr

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through the meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS.....Matthew 21:1-11**

P Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna in the Highest.**

1When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

5"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd

spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

P Glory to you, O Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, on this day your Son, Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Let the branches we bear today be for us signs of his victory. Grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and follow in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name we pray.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN All Glory, Laud and Honor**

LBW, “Green”, 108

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 50:4-9a

4The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

5The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

9aIt is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16

9Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

10For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

11 I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

12 Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;

I am as useless as a | broken pot.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.

I have said, “You | are my God.

15 My times are | in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

16 Let your face shine up- | on your servant;

save me in your | steadfast love.”

THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

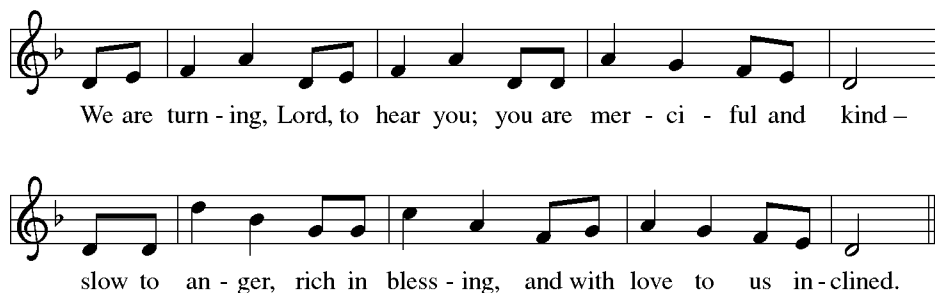
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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 27:11-54

The congregation remains seated until verse 33, "...they came to a place called Golgotha", at which point the congregation stands.

P The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." 12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

“Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” 20Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” 22Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” 23Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

24So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” 25Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” 26So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

27Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 30They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

32As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), *The congregation will please stand*, 34they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

38Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41In the same way the chief priests

also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” 44The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

45From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” 48At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” 50Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

P The Passion of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

THE SERMON

*HYMN O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

LBW, “Green”, 117

*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.

*ANTHEM *Hosanna Filio David* F. Schubert

*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,
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** **Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!** **LBW, “Green”, 121**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Sarabande* GF Handel



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 26, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$2,479.00
Lent	217.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	175.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Parish Life	10.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	80.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	50.00
Lutheran World Relief	50.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,353.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Russell and Catherine Goertz by the family.

+In Loving Memory of my daughter, Sally Ann Millikan by Sally Bjornstad.



Newsletter

Thank You for submitting your articles on time.

Please remember deadlines so we can get the newsletter out to the members by the first of the month.

This month April the deadline will be

Tuesday, April 18 Deadline for articles

Thursday, April 27 Assembling and mailing the “Lion”.



EASTER HOSPITALITY

We are excited to once again be hosting Easter Hospitality! Please join us April 9th for a variety of tasty treats ~ nothing too big so no worries that Easter dinner will be ruined. We will meet in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (anytime after 9:15 should work well) for refreshments and Christian Fellowship. All are invited and welcome to join in our Easter Celebration! We can't wait to see you!

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



HOLY WEEK

and

EASTER

SCHEDULE



Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m. (Chapel)

Holy Communion with Foot Washing,
7:30 p.m. (Nave)

Friday, April 7, Good Friday

Ecumenical Service, Trinity Episcopal
Pro-Cathedral, Noon

(844 West 4th Street)

Tenebrae (Service of the Shadows), in
our Nave 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter, 8 p.m.

(We will gather in the Chapel and move
to the Nave).

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday

The Feast of Resurrection (Easter Holy
Communion), 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 30, "St. Mark Sunday"

(Remembering our patron)

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a discussion of service times on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The Worship and Music Committee invites all members of the congregation to join us for prayerful discussion after the 10:30 service on April 30 concerning the possibility of a single service continuing after Labor Day. We are doing this in response to much discussion at the Congregational Meeting in December.

The committee will have a brief meeting after the discussion. We realize that there are merits to keeping the two services after the single summer services. We also realize that there are merits to having one service.

A document will be available in the Narthex on April 16 and 23. Please fill it out with your comments. The document will basically have room for your comments concerning the advantages and disadvantages of having either the services as we have them now, or having a single service. We will have a method of collecting the responses by April 16.

We realize that this is a divisive situation for many members of the congregation. It's time to make a decision on the question of one or two services by the May meeting of the council. The council will make the ultimate decision per the constitution.

Blessings,

The Worship and Music Committee



WELCOME PATTY FALK!

Patty begins her duties this Sunday as our new Church Sexton! Welcome Patty!



Monday, April 3- Sunday, April 9, 2023

Monday, April 3	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir and Orchestra (Nave)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4	Chrism Mass (Zion Church, Turbotville)	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 5		
Thursday, April 6	MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion	
	Chapel 12:05 p.m.	Nave 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7	GOOD FRIDAY Ecumenical Service at Trinity	
	Episcopal Pro-Cathedral	Noon
	Tenebrae (Service of the Shadows) in our Nave	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 8	HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL	
	We will gather in the Chapel and move to the Nave.	8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 9	EASTER SUNDAY	
	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Tina Harvey	April 5
Linda Rosini	April 6
Carol Butters	April 7
John Goertz	April 7
Zachary Travis	April 8

ANNIVERSARYS

Wanda and Matt Fortin	April 3
Dee and Gary Goertz	April 3
Kathy and Louis Kolb	April 8

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No Committee meetings on the schedule for this week

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.

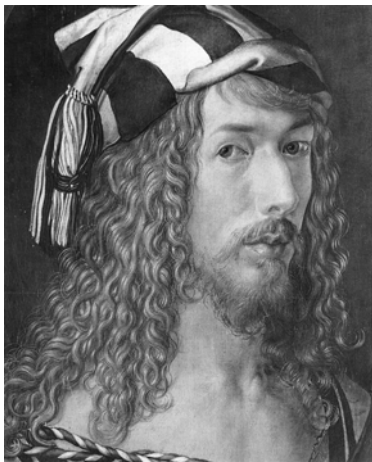
COMMEMORATIONS



Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.



Albrecht Dürer



Matthias Grünewald



Lucas Cranach

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

Thursday, April 6, 2023

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.