

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

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



Holy Communion (A Setting for Lent)

8 am and 10:30 am

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

****Please stand as you are able.***

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's forgiveness and abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. Kneel/Stand.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

***HYMN Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church No reference available**

***THE GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Deuteronomy 26:1-11

1 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall

go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.”⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us,⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.”**
⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.
¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

13 You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

14 **I will deliver those who | cling to me;**
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.

15 They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

16 **With long life will I | satisfy them,**
and show them | my salvation.

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 10:8-13

8b “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Return to the Lord your God, for he his gracious and merciful.

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 4:1-13**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a

loaf of bread.” 4 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

11 and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

12 Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

When We Are Tested

No Reference Available

***THE NICENE CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**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**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, "Lord, in your mercy/Receive our prayer."*

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal with faith and life, and bring us to the fullness 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:

6 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and
10 earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo-ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.
15 Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the name of the Lord, Ho -
san - - na in the high - - - est.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from sin,

your Spirit led him into the wilderness,

where he fasted for forty days and nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,

presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,

and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, as your people prepare for the holy feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to affirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

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.

In remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who are 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**

(organ) O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the
 sins of the world have mer-cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

***INVITATION**

All who are hungry come! The feast of grace is spread!
Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way and kneel/stand at the rail. After you commune, return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward and receive a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The blessing of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God LBW, “Green,” 229**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

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OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for March 2, 2025

Regular Offering	\$5,814.00
Plate Offerings	50.00
Lent	55.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Miscellaneous	10.00
Family Promise Hosting	120.00
Easter Flowers	34.00
Grand Total	\$6,088.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and
in loving memory of Elmer D. and Eva F. Hunt and William W. and
Fredericia M. Bastian by Romain & Evelyn Bastian; and
in loving memory of our aunts, Roxie Larson and Marian Larson, by Nancy
& Ernie Larson.

WORSHIP LEADERS

March 9, 2025

Lector	8 am	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 am	Mary Ann Stiller
Communion Assistants	8 am	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 am	Wanda and Matt Fortin
Ushers	8 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller
	10:30 am	Gary and Shelby Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (MARCH)		Bev Heiber & Audrey Albright

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, March 9	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am
Monday, March 10	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Little Lambs Liaison, 12:15 pm
Tuesday, March 11	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm West Branch Conference, 9:30 am

Wednesday, March 12 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm
Mid-week Bible Study, “Atonement Theories”, 12:10 pm

Thursday, March 13 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm
Clergy Lunch, 1 pm

Friday, March 14 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Saturday, March 15 Church Office Closed

Sunday, March 16 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Kinney 3/11

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the “Lion”. Thank You!

BIBLE STUDY

A study of the Book of Revelation during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.



Lenten Bible study begins on Wednesday, March 12 at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our study this year will be discovering what the Bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.



New Covenant UCC, in conjunction with the Office of Community Service at Lycoming College, will host an **Easter Egg Hunt** at Lycoming’s intramural sports field on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm. To support this child-focused activity, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is asking for donations of plastic eggs, individually

wrapped candy, fruit snack and snack crackers. Donations are due by April 1 and may be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.



RAISE THE REGION MARCH 12-13, 2025

Camp Mount Luther is once again participating in Raise the Region and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through raisetheregion.org will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars, and awards! Please go to raisetheregion.org March 12 at 6 pm through March 13 at 11:55 pm to make your contribution, and THANK YOU for your generosity.

Camp Mount Luther's Summer 2025 registration is now open! Find out more and register at www.campmountluther.org/summer.

LWR is in desperate need of items for North Carolina and California to respond to the natural disasters in those areas. If you would like to contribute items for personal care kits, please place them in the bin in the Narthex. The kits include cotton towels (20" x 40" up to 27" x 52"), bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. Kits will be assembled beginning in April. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.



Please consider donating to our shoebox collections this month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them.

In March, we will be collecting:

- Combs/Brushes/Hair Accessories**
- Toothbrushes**
- Toothbrush Holder**
- Mini Flashlights**

The age ranges for both boy and girl boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Envelope#: _____

Telephone: _____

I am ordering:

_____ Asiatic Lilies (6" assorted) @ \$9.00 = \$ _____

_____ Easter Lilies (6" Easter Lily 1 bulb) @ \$9.00 = \$ _____

_____ Easter Lilies (12" Easter Lily 2 bulbs) @ \$17.00 = \$ _____

and/or a gift for other decorations = \$ _____

and/or a donation to Local Hunger = \$ _____

These are given: (if more room is needed use the back of the card)

In Honor of (living person) _____

In Memory of (deceased) _____

All flower orders *must* be in by March 26, 2025
The flowers will be available for you to take following the late Easter Service.

COMMEMORATIONS

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883;
renewers of society**

Monday, March 10, 2025

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.



Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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.



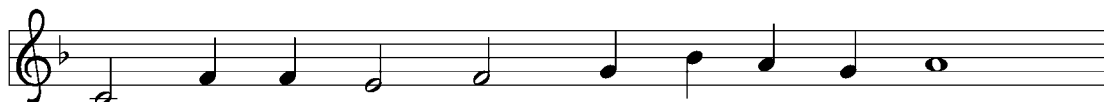
Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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