

The Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

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



Holy Communion (A Setting for Lent)

8 am and 10:30 am

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

A guide to hymnal use: LBW (Green) or WOV (Blue).

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/INTRODUCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (Luke 19:28-40)**

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

Hosanna in the highest!

28 After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead

of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and palm branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

LBW, “Green,” 108

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **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;

8 he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

9a It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

10 For 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (Luke)
In Word and Song (Insert)

Luke 22:14-23

For the Bread Which you Have Broken (sts. 1-2) LBW 200

Luke 22:31-53

Go to Dark Gethsemane (sts. 1) LBW 109

Luke 22:54-62

What Wondrous Love Is This (sts. 1-2) LBW 385

Luke 22:63-23:25

Go to Dark Gethsemane (sts. 2) LBW 109

Luke 23:26-46

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (st. 4) WOV 756

Luke 23:47-56

Beneath the Cross of Jesus LBW 107

***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.

ANTHEM (10:30 am)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Gilbert Martin

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

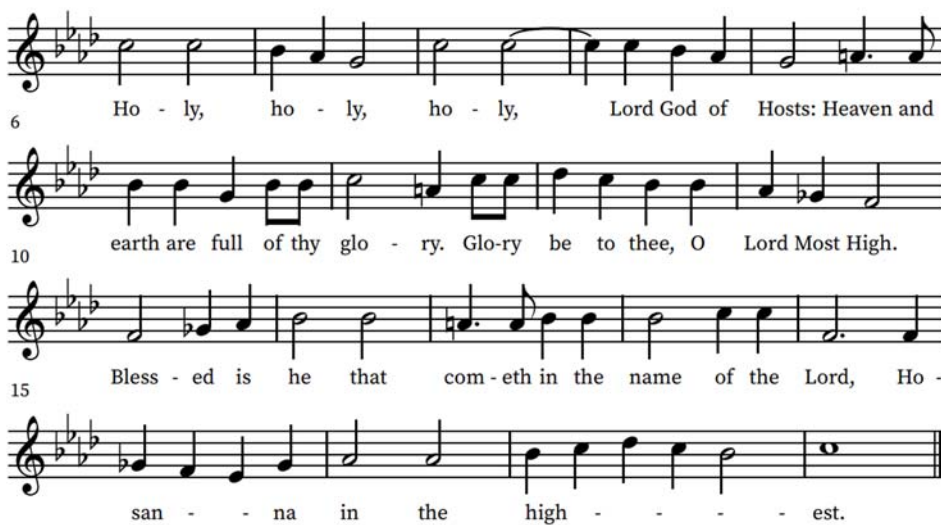
Lift up your hearts.

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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,
whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in our likeness.
He humbled himself and became obedient to death on a cross.
He offered himself, a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.
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 with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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 your 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 for the world 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 holy 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 art in heaven,

hallowed by 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,

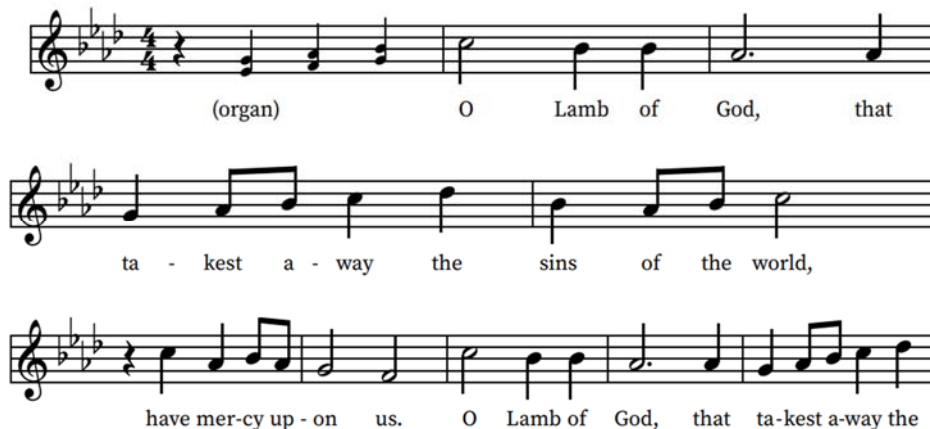
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

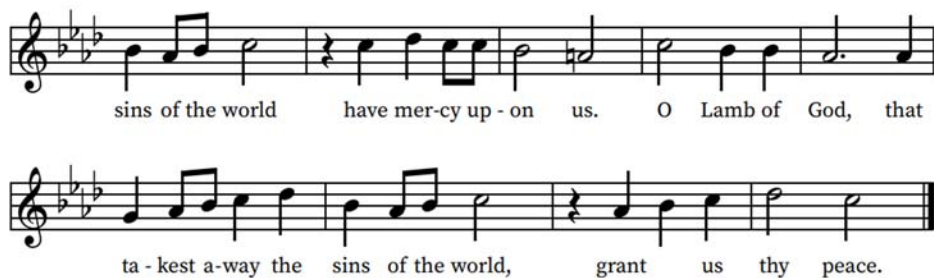
and the power and the glory,

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



***INVITATION**

All who are hungry come! The feast of grace is spread!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at our Lord's table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup from the tray 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 for a blessing.

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

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

LBW, "Green," 121

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 Hausmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible and Helen Schramm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for April 6, 2025

Regular Offering	\$5,056.00
Plate Offerings	56.00
Easter	5.00
Lent	115.00
Food Pantry	10.00
Global Mission	5.00
Organ Fund	30.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
Synod Benevolence	3.00
Easter Flowers	18.00
Grand Total	\$5,378.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of Francis Bigelow by Matt and Wanda Fortin and Ruth Ann Bigalow; and

In loving memory of Mary McLaughlin by Audrey and Carl Albright; and

In loving memory of Robert Kuntz and Mark Kuntz, husband and son, by Ann Kuntz; and

In loving memory of Elda Zeigler on her birthday by the Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for April 13, 2025

Lector	8 am	Vicki Hausmann
	10:30 am	Theresa Furman

Communion Assistants	8 am	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 am	Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler
Ushers	8 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller
	10:30 am	Matt Fortin, Glenn Yaple, Mel Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (APRIL)		Matt and Wanda Fortin

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S (Holy Week)

Sunday, April 13	Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am	
Monday, April 14	Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm Council, 6 pm.	
Tuesday, April 15	Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm (Pastor attends Chrism Mass)	
Wednesday, April 16	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm Holy Communion at Williamsport Home, 2 pm (Bldg. A)	
Thursday, April 17	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Holy Communion, 12:05 pm (Chapel) Holy Communion, 7:30 pm (Nave)	
Friday, April 18	Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm Ecumenical Service (New Covenant UCC), Noon- 1 pm Evening Service, Nave, 7:30 pm	
Saturday, April 19	Easter Vigil, 8 pm (Beginning in Chapel)	
Sunday, April 20	Holy Communion, 8 am "Extended Hospitality", 9:15 am, Fellowship Hall Holy Communion, 10:30 am	

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Ochs	4/13	Ezra Buckman	4/14
Steven Bieber Jr	4/15	Cynthia Hartzel	4/19

KEEP IN MIND:

~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 it may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."

BIBLE STUDY

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



PLEASE JOIN US on Friday, April 18 (Good Friday) in the Nave at 7:30 pm for the Drama, "The Temptation of Jesus," by the Rev. Curt M. Joseph. The drama imagines a conversation between Jesus and Satan while Jesus is being crucified. The character of Satan "tries his best" to convince Jesus to come down from the cross and end his suffering and execution. Jesus remains steadfast and answers the devil's temptation with the traditional seven last words from the cross. The drama's message is a powerful one and seeks to remind us that (1) temptations were part of the life of Christ, (2) we can only "overcome" temptations when we rely on God in Christ, and (3) Satan and temptations come to us in many and various forms and nuances.



We are excited to once again be hosting **Easter Hospitality!** Please join us April 20 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 (any time 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!

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 after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 27. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.



Urgent Community Needs

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently delivered donated items to the United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Streets and Sojourner's Truth Ministry. We thank the congregation for the **114 pounds of non-perishable food items** given to the Pantry and for the many, many requested items to the Shepherd's office and to STM. We were immensely thanked by staff members and then told of the urgent needs of each. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ, please consider donating an item or two from the list below. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

United Churches Food Pantry: Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.,) jars of jelly and canned meats (1 lb. canned hams and SPAM.)

Shepherd of the Streets: Deodorant for men and women, tissues and XXL adult Pull-Ups.

Sojourner Truth Ministry: Cleaning supplies such as Mister Clean, Lysol Liquid and spray air fresheners (Clean or Linen scent.)



Summer Camp brochures are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.



Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection! Our shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout the world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity books, journals, washcloths, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved.

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals** (beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls, Hair Accessories, and Tape Measures**. These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. We hope to also order Grow With Me shoes this year to be included in as many boxes as possible. Checks may be placed with your offering, earmarked OCC. Thank you so much for your generosity!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (boys and girls)

ALL ABOARD THE ARK!



A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner at Hershey Farm Inn are all included in the price of \$176.77. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

COMMEMORATIONS

Olavus Petri, pastor, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church

Saturday, April 19, 2025

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

121

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and

tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
 squad-rons of the sky Look down with sad and won - d'ring
 fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on his sap - phire

sue. With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 throne A - waits his own a - noint - ed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
 In lowly pomp ride on to die,
 Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
 Then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.
 © Tune: Graham George, b. 1912



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