

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 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

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.”



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

**An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10)**

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel/Stand)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows upon them the Holy Spirit.

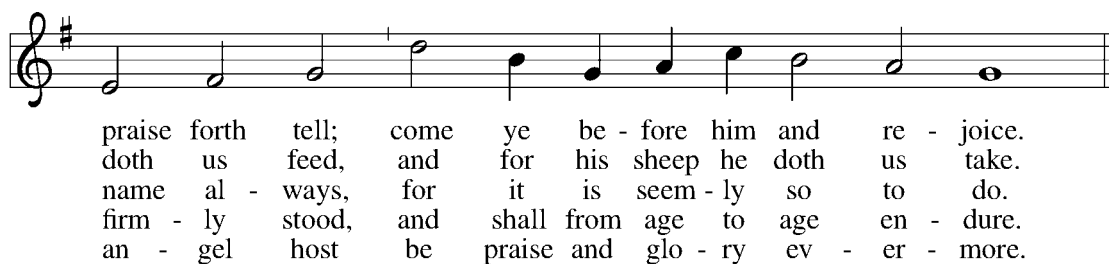
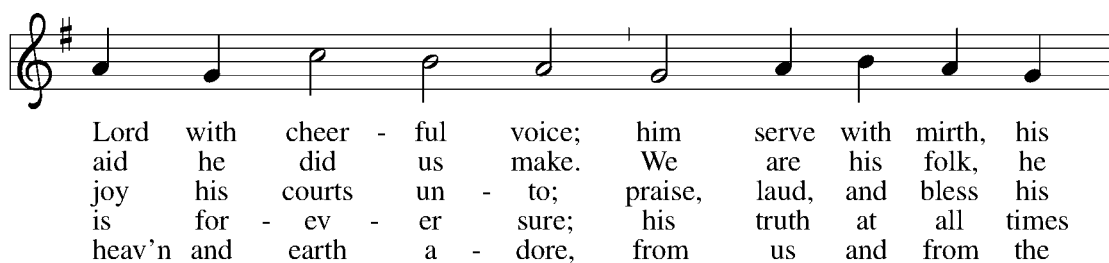
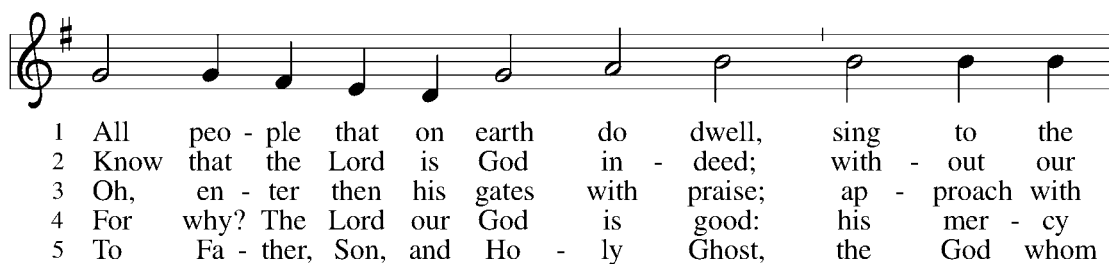
Amen.

***HYMN**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

LBW, "Green," 245

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 49:1-12

¹ Hear this, | all you peoples;

give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,

² **you of high de- | gree and low,**

rich and | poor together.

³ My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,

and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.

⁴ **I will incline my ear | to a proverb**

and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp.

⁵ Why should I be afraid in | evil days,

when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,

⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,**

and boast of | their great riches?

⁷ One can never re- | deem another,

or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;

⁸ **for the ransom of a life | is so great**

that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,

⁹ in order to live forev- | er and ever

and never | see the grave.

¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish**

and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation

to | generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.
**¹² Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that perish.**

THE SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’” ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

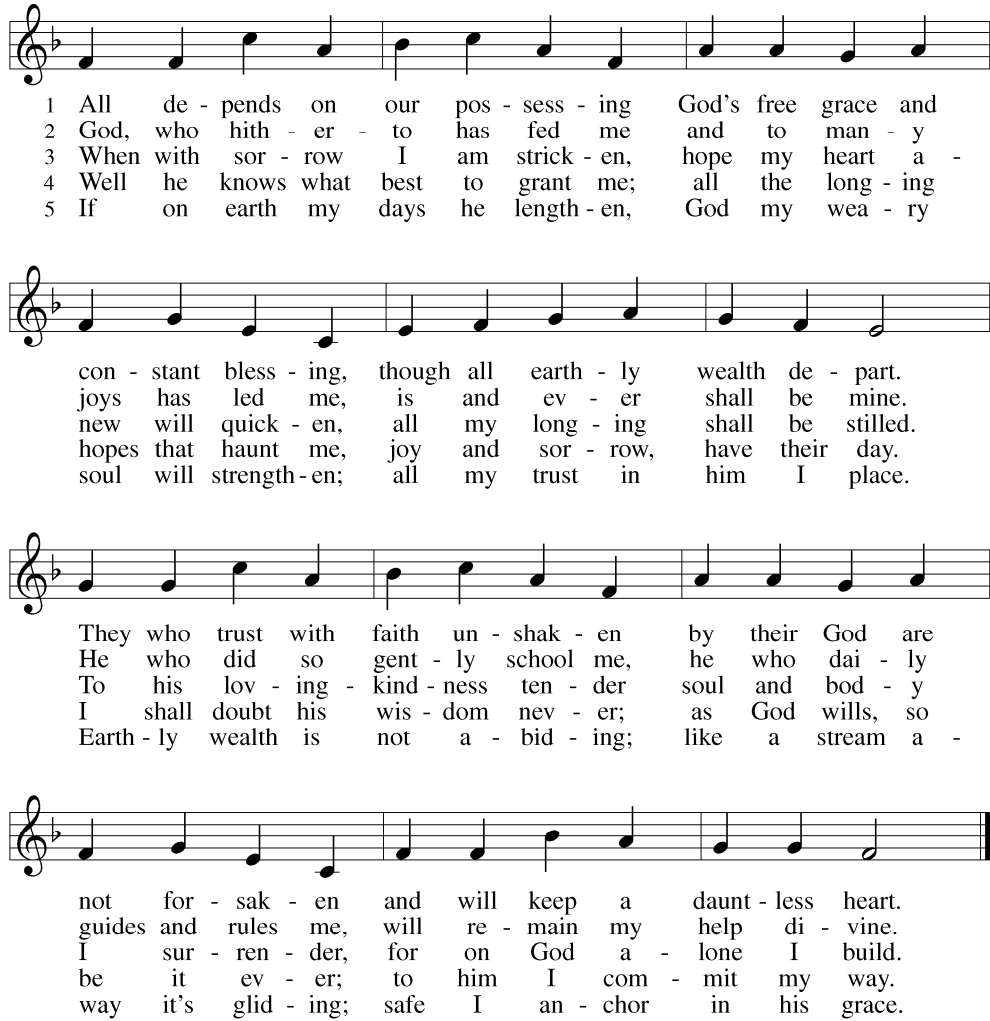
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN All Depends on Our Possessing**

LBW, “Green,” 447

All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
 2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
 3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
 4 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the long - ing
 5 If on earth my days he length - en, God my wea - ry

con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
 new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
 hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
 soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.

They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
 He who did so gent - ly school me, he who dai - ly
 To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - y
 I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er; as God wills, so
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -

not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.
 be it ev - er; to him I com - mit my way.
 way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

Text: *Gesang-Buch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.
 Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645-1705, adapt.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

With all the people of God, we confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition: God of grace/Hear our prayer.

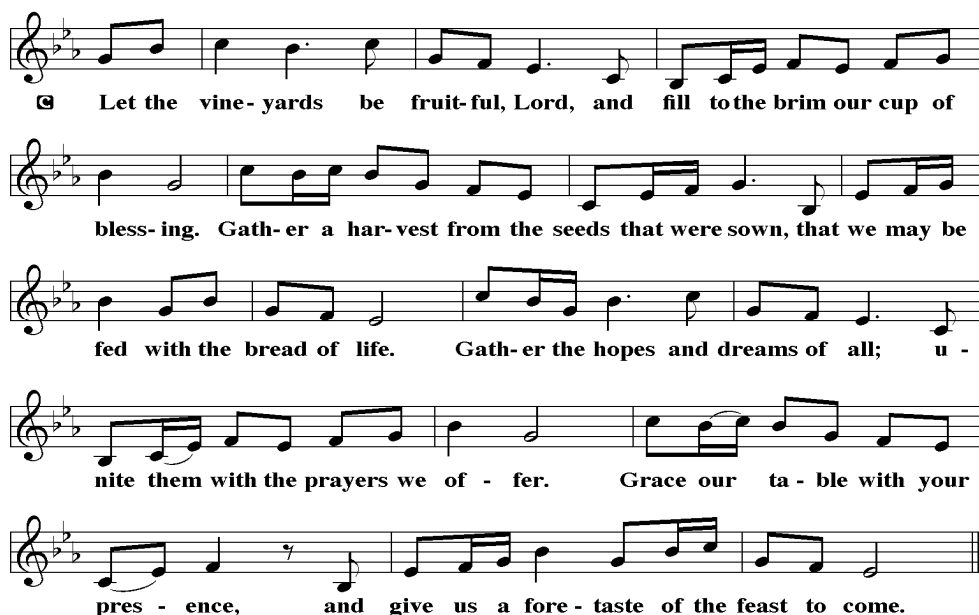
***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

***OFFERING**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

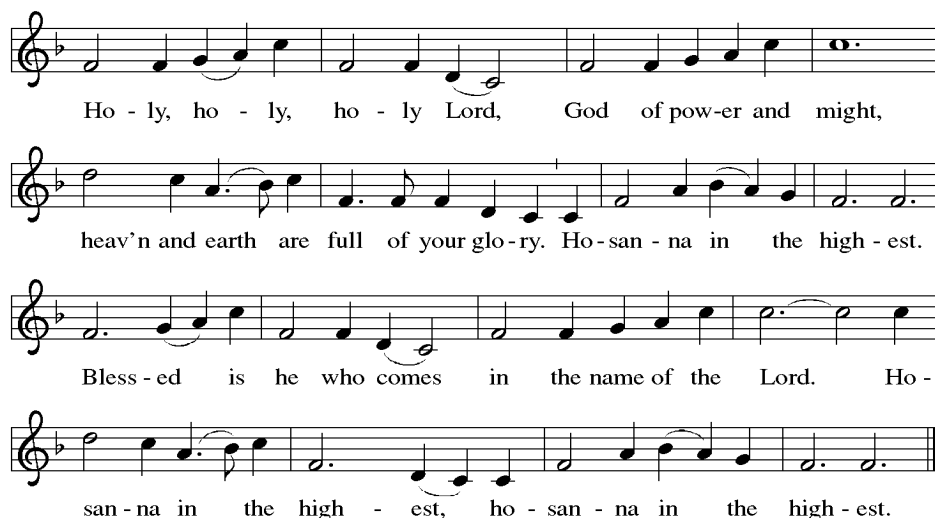
Lift up your hearts.

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 Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way to eternal life. 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.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In your great love you sent to us Jesus your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached the good news to the poor,
and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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."

Remembering therefore,
his death, resurrection and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with whom and in whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.


Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:

**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 COMMUNE**

**The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!
 Thanks be to God!**

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup on the way. Receive the bread from Pastor Vasey and then proceed to receive the wine from one of two pouring chalices. After communing, please return to your pew by the side aisles. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

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

THE COMMUNION

***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**

Triune God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, who gives to us the gift of freedom, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***HYMN Take My Life, that I May Be**

LBW, "Green," 406

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: PAIMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, Michael Reitz, Becky Pryor and Shirley Kinney.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Today, August 3 | Holy Communion, 9:30 am |
| Monday, August 4 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Tuesday, August 5 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Wednesday, August 6 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Thursday, August 7 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Friday, August 8 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Saturday, August 9 | Office Closed |
| Sunday, August 10 | Holy Communion, 9:30 am |

PASTOR'S VACATION

Friday, July 25 – Sunday, August 3 Pastor Vasey will be on vacation. Ray Huff will preach and preside on Sunday, July 28 and Sunday, August 3. Should you be in need of pastoral care during Pastor Vasey's absence, please contact our church office (570-323-4619). Thank You!

OUR STEWARDSHIP for July 27, 2025

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$3,196.00 |
| Plate Offerings | 35.00 |
| World Hunger | 10.00 |
| Food Pantry | 60.00 |
| Operation Christmas Child | 110.00 |
| Family Promise Hosting | 50.00 |
| Organ Fund | 200.00 |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | 105.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | 50.00 |
| Grand Total | \$3,816.00 |

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In honor of our children by the Wentzels and;
In honor of our grandchildren and great grandchildren by Tom and Becky Miller Pryor

WORSHIP LEADERS for August 3, 2025

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Lector | 9:30 am | Donna Clark |
| Communion Assistants | 9:30 am | Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel |
| Ushers | 9:30 am | Gary & Shelby Weber |
| Hospitality | 9:30 am | Wentzel/Thomas |
| Organist | | Sam Robinson |
| Altar Guild (AUGUST) | | Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini |

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Donna Clark | 8/7 |
| Charlie Fortin | 8/8 |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Walt & Leah Haussmann | 8/3 |
| Bryan & Karen Pelleschi | 8/7 |

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

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





Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn – 36” to 52” square (no polar fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. **“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”**

–Samia, East Asia

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

In August we are indeed collecting **School Supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes).... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started!

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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



Red Cross Blood Drive

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently hosted its first of three blood drives. Fifteen pints of much needed blood was donated. We learned that those pints could save up to 45 lives! Our next blood drive will be Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00A – 3:00P in Fellowship Hall.



Time for TastyKakes

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in providing boxes of TastyKakes (any kind) for Redeemer's Community dinner on August 14. Donations can be placed on the table in the Narthex. All donations are needed by Sunday, August 10, 2025. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give.

Cereal Sundays

For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer. In July we helped to ease that burden with our cereal collection. The congregation donated **47 boxes of assorted cereal.**

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 10, 2025.

Can we beat our July collection of 47 boxes of cereal?

Blessing Box Needs:

The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna Salad and Star-Kist Chicken Creations: Chicken Salad.** These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items. These two items will be collected throughout the summer.

Each week either the Monday Sandwich Crew or the Wednesday Sandwich Crew make 16-24 assorted sandwiches for New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. This outreach has grown increasingly expensive. We welcome monetary donations in addition to the Star-Kist donations. If you would like to participate in the making of sandwiches speak with Becky Miller Pryor. Both men and women are welcome to join us.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

**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.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The bus will be pulling out around 9:00 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$145.09 per person. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.



Backpack Blessing

Please join us Sunday, August 17th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, educators, business executives, attorneys, physicians, nurses, in short, 'anyone who carries a bag or satchel' are encouraged to bring their bag with them as we prayerfully send you into the 2025-26 school year.

We pray: Lord bless this backpack and the one who carries it. May they feel your love and protection in all they do. ~ Amen



Dear church,

Our hearts break anew with each update about the catastrophic flash floods in South Central Texas. We join the Rev. Sue Briner, bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod, in her call to “**pray, pray, pray** for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died, or who have experienced loss of home or property.” Merciful God, hear our prayer.

As ever and with your support, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and communities begin to navigate life on the other side of this horrific flood. May we be bearers of the hope found in Christ alone and help shoulder the burden for those who grieve unimaginable loss. Thank you to those who have already joined us through your prayers and support for this work.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that our neighbors are not alone on the long road to recovery after disasters like the floods in Texas.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with other partners as well to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery.

Can our neighbors recovering from disasters count on your support?

Through these disasters and others in the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities throughout the recovery process, walking with them for as long as it takes. **Together, as a church, we follow Christ’s call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.**

In prayer together,
The Rev. John Eggen
Senior Director, Annual Giving
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastors' Monthly Luncheon Returns

Beginning September 11, 2025 we will host the Center City Pastors and others at a luncheon beginning at 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge.

Luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month from September through May. We would welcome help with the meal, particularly a dessert to serve.

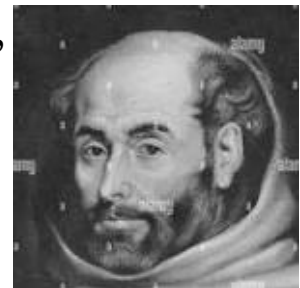
Generally we plan on twelve attendees. Please speak to Becky Miller Pryor if you would like to participate or donate a part of the meal.

COMMEMORATION

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Friday, August 8, 2025

Dominic was a Spanish pastor who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.



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