

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

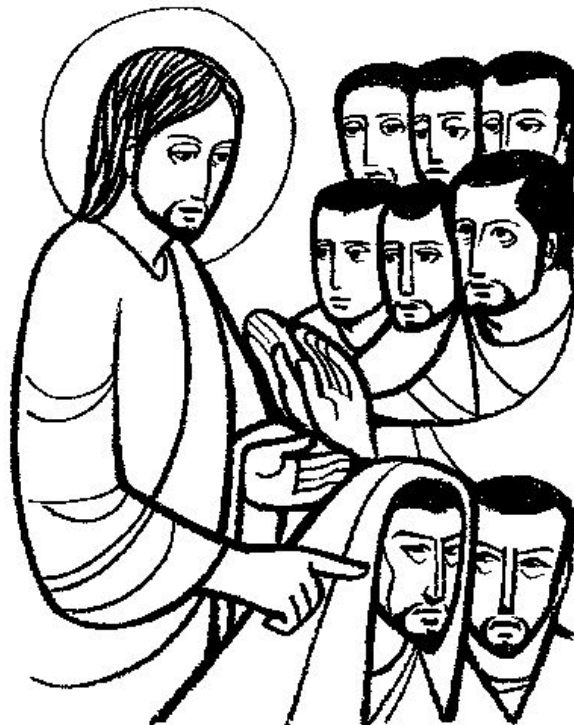
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

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 seek,
"To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



An Order for Holy Communion 9:30 am
(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave. ALL HYMNS ARE PRINTED IN BACK OF BULLETIN.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

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

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in the Gospel according to John for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Ephesians tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

PRELUDE *Trumpet Tune* Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, we confess our sin.

Kneel/stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your love.

Turn us again to you.

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

***HYMN** Lord of Our Life LBW (Green) 366

***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**



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING..... Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ^{14c}“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those

great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be God.

PSALM Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

THE SECOND READING..... Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness

the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord

Thanks Be God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE GOSPEL..... John 6:56-69**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter

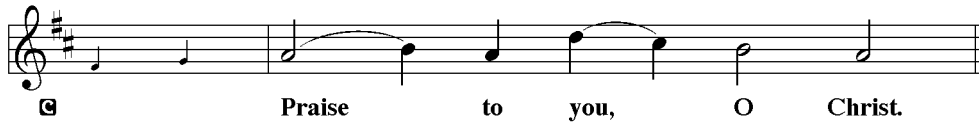
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon

Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”



THE SERMON

*HYMN God’s Word is Our Great Heritage LBW (Green) 239

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, 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

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “Merciful
God/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

Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing* Debra Buckman, soloist

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
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 good news to the poor,
who on the cross opened his arms to all,
and by his resurrection brought eternal life.

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 which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
Again after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks,
and gave it to 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,
and unite the wills
of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood
of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom with you
and the Holy Spirit
be all honor and glory,
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 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



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*INVITATION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come! **Amen**

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing 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 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**

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The blessing of God, Father, Son, \dagger and Holy Spirit,
who provides for us, feeds us and journeys with us
be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN** O Word of God Incarnate LBW (Green) 231

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE *Crown Imperial* William Walton (1902-1983)

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OUR STEWARDSHIP August 18, 2024



Regular Offering	\$1,975.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,975.00

PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, 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, Joseph Baur, John Tartline, Bob Miller, Carl Hieber, Ann Kuntz, Donna Baker, Gary Weber, Tom Waffenschmidt, Phil and Barb Thomas.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Today (Sunday, August 25, 2024) are given to the glory of God:
 +In Honor of Shirley Kinney's 93rd birthday by Mike and Jackie Kinney
 +In Loving Memory of Pastor Duane Nelson (brother of Leah Haussmann) by the Haussmanns

WORSHIP LEADERS August 25, 2024

Lector	9:30AM	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	9:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist	9:30AM	Sam Robinson
Ushers:	9:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	AUGUST	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



MEMORIAL SERVICE

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life St. Mark's will remember John Hoffman, Saturday, August 28, 11:30 am. All are welcome.

Summer Hospitality!



The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, smores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

Lutheran World Relief



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

It is that time - Lutheran World Relief kits. Directions for the four different types of kits are in the narthex, please feel free to take them. Kits are due the end of September but the bins will be available beginning

7/21. The goal is 70 school kits, 10 fabric kits (watch for JoAnn's fabrics coupons), 10 personal care kits, and 10 baby kits (yard sales are a great place to find gently used items). The following will be provided - school bags, cloth diapers and diaper pins. These will be available beginning 7/21. If you have questions, please contact me at dabuckman65@gmail.com or 570-323-1707. Thanks for your generosity. These kits can mean the world to a child, mother or family.

Cereal Sunday: We Hit It Out of the Park!



Our August collection was our best yet with 47 regular-sized boxes of cereal and 74 single-serve boxes of cereal being delivered to the United Churches Food Pantry. Our summer total stands at 248 boxes of assorted cereal. Executive Director, Pastor Tammy Edkin, was thrilled with our donations. The pantry continues to need single-serve boxes of cereal.

Our final Cereal Sunday will be September 8, 2024.

Let's Keep Batting A 1,000!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Pastoral Care Department will be hosting a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant Training at UPMC Williamsport Hospital on September 26, 2024, from 9:30AM – 3:30PM. If you desire to be a spiritual companion for those who are sick at UPMC care facilities in North Central PA (Williamsport, Muncy or Lock Haven), please consider becoming a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant. Contact Sister Gabrielle Nguyen at 570-321-2213 or

nguyens4@upmc.edu by September 5, 2024. We hope you can join our mission of extending God’s healing love by providing an extraordinary patient experience throughout North Central PA.

Camp Mount Luther “Foundations for the Future” Capital Campaign



For over 60 years Camp Mount Luther has been providing ministry to youth, families and adults from the congregations and communities of Central Pennsylvania and beyond. After 60 years, however, upgrades and renovations are needed to ensure that this important outdoor ministry will continue for generations to come.

Today at St. Mark’s we are kicking off our 6 week campaign in support of Camp Mount Luther. Over the next several weeks you will receive information regarding the importance of working toward our **congregational goal** of raising **\$7500.00**. We look forward to supporting this capital campaign, and pray that through our generous spirit others may continue to learn about and know the love of Christ found in this amazing space known as Camp Mount Luther.



Urgent Need!

There is No Vacation from Hunger.

A Message from Pastor Tammy Edkin

The United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry is seeing an increase in families that are utilizing our services in order to stretch their limited resources. We love being able to feed our neighbors, with your donations, and with the love of Christ! However, our shelves are becoming empty as soon as we fill them. Please consider taking a collection, within your church of our most needed items:

- Canned Meats (Tuna Fish, Chicken, Salmon, Beef, etc.)
- Canned Fruits (Peaches, Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, Pears, etc.)
- Canned Vegetables (Carrots especially!)
- Pastas (Elbow Macaroni, Wide Egg Noodles, etc.)
- Soups (Cream of Chicken, Cream of Mushroom, Beef Stew, Chunky Soups, Ramen Noodles, etc.)
- Condiments (Mayonnaise, Relish, Ketchup, BBQ Sauce, Gravy, etc.)
- Snacks (Saltines, Individual Bags of Chips and Pretzels, Jello and Pudding Cups, etc.)
- Tea Bags and Juice Boxes
- Marshmallow Fluff (Yum!)



Please consider donating something from your own pantry or including an item or two on your shopping list. Donations can be placed on the table in the Narthex closet area. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.



Monday, August 26, -
Sunday, September 1, 2024

Monday, August 26
Tuesday, August 27
Wednesday, August 28
Thursday, August 29
Friday, August 30
Saturday, August 31
Sunday, September 1

Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Hours 9:00AM-1:00PM
Office Closed
Holy Communion 9:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Zeigler August 23

ANNIVERSARIES

Jane and Paul Zimmerer August 24
Carol and David Butters August 25

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week at Our Church”, please email jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org



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) 272-788-0161 (cell) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

COMMEMORATIONS

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430
August 28



Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400
August 28



Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, star of our
2 See round your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing, see how your
3 Lord, you can help when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; Lord, you can
4 Peace in our hearts, our trou - bled thoughts as - suag - ing, peace in your



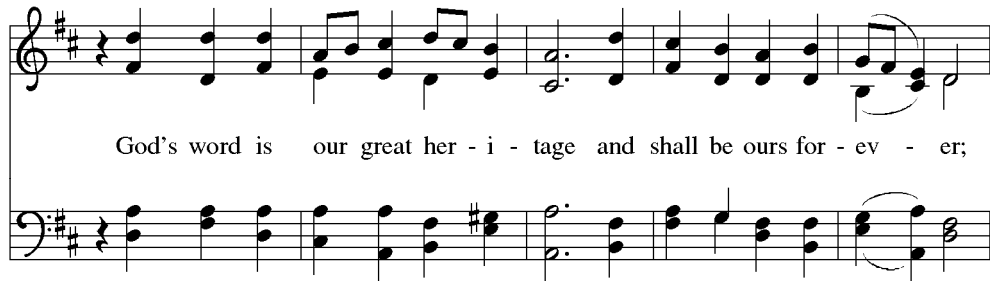
night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: hear and re - ceive your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing. Lord, while their poi - soned
save when dead - ly sin as - sails us; and, in the day when
church, where kin - dred souls are rag - ing, peace, when the world its



church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
ar - rows they are hurl - ing, you can pre - serve us.
hell it - self ap - palls us, grant us your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, peace in your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus A. von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.
Music: ISTE CONFESSOR, Poitiers *Antiphoner*, 1746

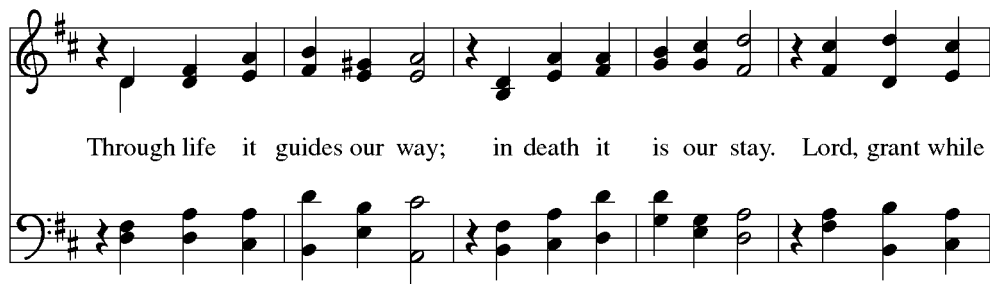
God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



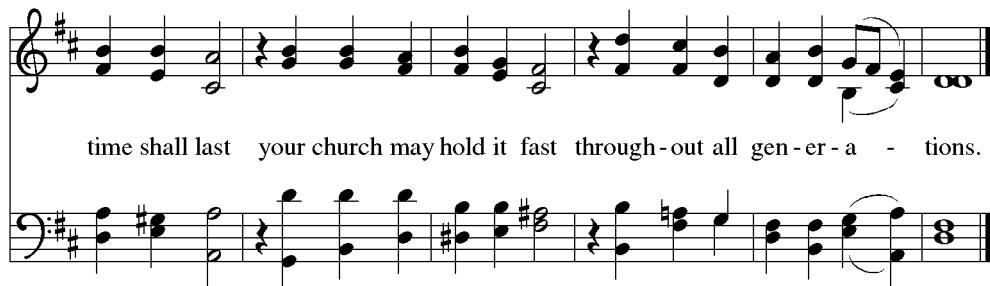
God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while



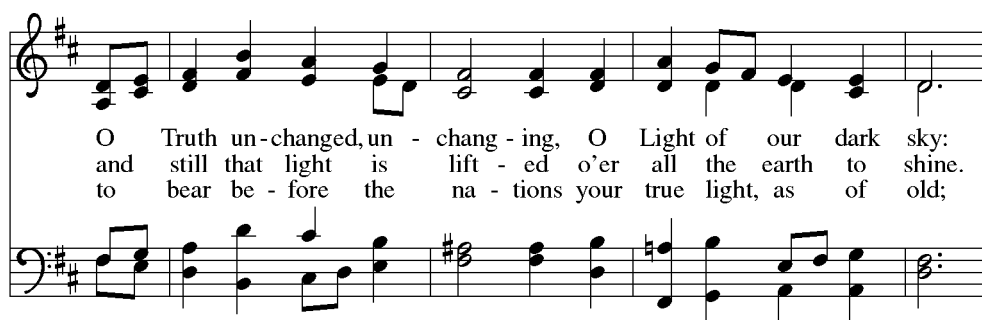
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861-1925, alt.
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483-1546

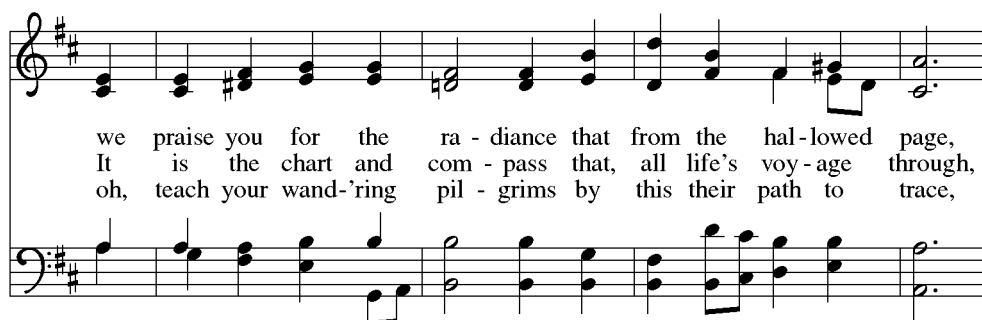
O Word of God Incarnate



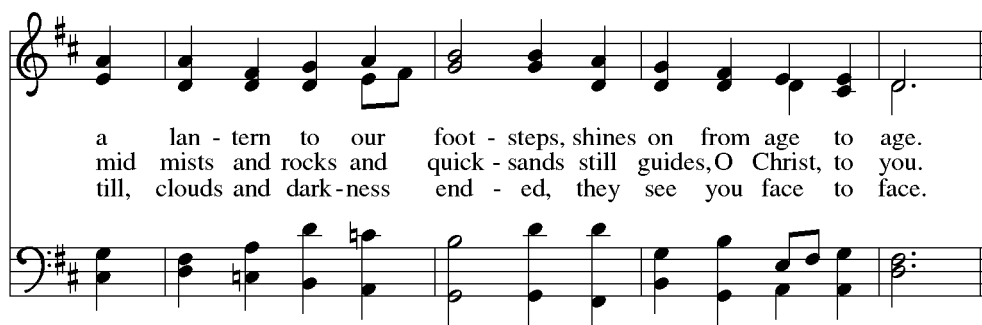
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.
Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693