

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 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."*



Order for Holy Communion 8:00/10:30 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.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

PRELUDE

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 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* WOV 731**

***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**

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Amen.

THE FIRST READING..... Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Thanks Be God.

PSALM..... Psalm 146

¹Hal-¹ lelujah!

Praise the LORD,¹ O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long¹ as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I¹ have my being.

³Put not your¹ trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there¹ is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re-¹ turn to earth,
and in that day¹ their thoughts perish. R**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;
who keeps promis-¹ es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the¹ captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who¹ are
bowed down; the LORD¹ loves the righteous. R**

⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.¹ Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND READING..... James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17


¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter**



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL..... Mark 7:24-37

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the

dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord



THE SERMON **Ray Huff**

***HYMN** *He Leadeth Me* LBW (Green) 501

***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


***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. Ⓞ We lift them to the Lord.

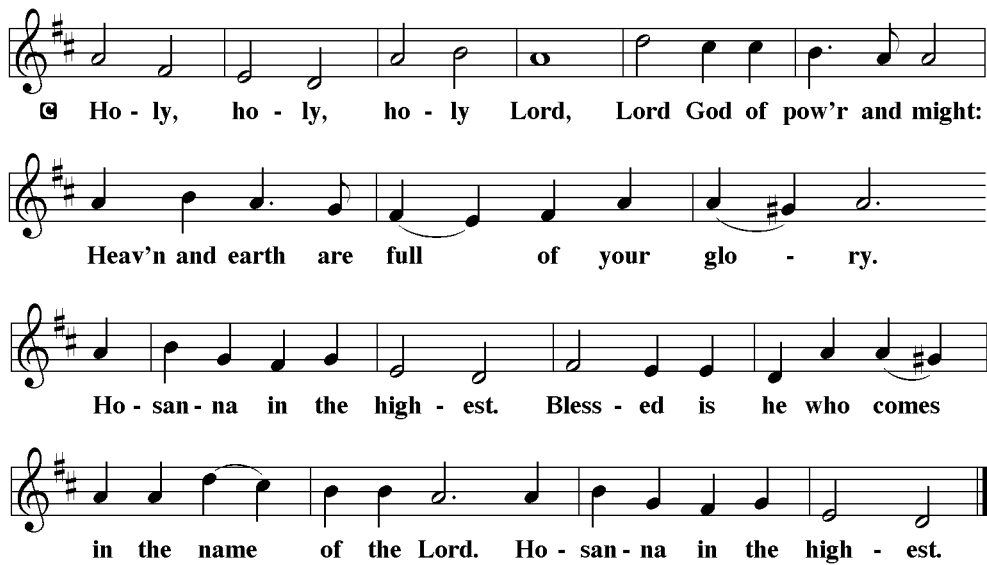


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓞ 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, ✠ and Holy Spirit,
who provides for us, feeds us and journeys with us
be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN *Go My Children* WOV 721**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

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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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP September 1, 2024



Not available at this time

ALTAR FLOWERS



Today (Sunday, September 8, 2024) are given to the glory of God:

- + In Honor of Stefan’s 25th Birthday by the Webers
- + In Loving Memory of Bill and Marion Waldeisen by her father

WORSHIP LEADERS September 8, 2024

Lector	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
Ushers	8:00 AM	Herb Poff, Richard Miller
Lector	10:30 AM	Shelby Weber
Communion Assistant	10:30 AM	Gary and Shelby Weber
Ushers	10:30 AM	Jensen Team

Organist

Sam Robinson

Altar Guild

September

Leah Haussmann, Deb Buckman

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.

Lutheran World Relief



Just about done! We need a few more kits – especially baby and sewing 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. The bin is in the narthex. 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 FINAL Cereal Sunday will be September 8, 2024.

Let's Keep Batting a Thousand!



Our total donations to date stand at 248 boxes of assorted cereals. There has already been a dozen or more boxes of cereal donated for September. Can we get to 300 boxes for our grand total?

Tastykakes Needed!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs your help in providing boxes of Tastykakes for Redeemer's community dinner on September 12, 2024. Please consider donating one



or more boxes of Tastykakes of any kind for this outreach. Donations are needed by September 8, 2024 and may be placed on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

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 Tammey Edkin

The United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry is seeing an increase in families that are utilizing the Pantry’s services in order to stretch their limited resources. In response to that information, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee gathered the groceries that had been donated over the summer months. We are proud to report that we delivered 98 non-perishable food items to the Pantry. Heartfelt thanks to the many members of the congregation who not only donated cereal but other needed food items as well.

Starting September 8, 2024 and continuing through September 22, 2024 we will be holding a mini food drive to be of further assistance to the United Churches Food Pantry. Check out the September Lion for additional information.



Monday, September 9, -
Sunday, September 15, 2024

Monday, September 9
Tuesday, September 10
Wednesday, September 11
Thursday, September 12
Friday, September 13
Saturday, September 14
Sunday, September 15

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 8:00AM and 10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Debra Buckman September 9 Hudson & Nolan Ott September 9
Mary Clouser September 10 Carol Harvey September 11
Timothy Maggs September 13 Stefan Weber September 13
Brennan Comerford September 15

ANNIVERSARIES

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.



Pastor Vasey will be on vacation September 2-8. Should you need a pastor during this time please contact Pastor Carol Johnson 570-772-6674 or carolandshuman@verizon.net). Thank you.