

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26, 2025**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
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Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



**Holy Communion (Setting One, LBW)
8 am and 10:30 am**

Please Note:

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

Bold print indicates Congregation.

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of holy baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Water is poured into the font at this time

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN Arise, Your Light Has Come WOV, "Blue," 652**

***THE GREETING**

The grace of the 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



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may

embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1 All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

1 The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker’s handiwork.
2 **One day tells its tale | to another,**
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

3 Although they have no | words or language,
 and their voices | are not heard,
4 their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.
 5 It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.
6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.
 7 The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
 the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.
8 The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.
 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
 the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.
 11 By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
 and in keeping them there is | great reward.
12 Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.
 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
 dominion | over me;
 then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the
 body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we
 were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all

made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31a But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 4:14-21**

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

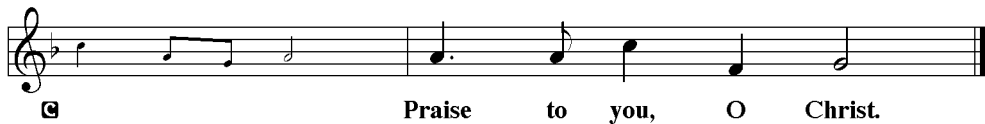


14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness (No Reference Available)**

***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, “God of
grace/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 in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ or Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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 are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
We remember your Word
dwelling among us
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
Our Father, who are in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

***LAMB OF GOD**

☞ 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.

***INVITATION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength! Come and feast in the meal of gladness!
Thanks be to God!

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**

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

***HYMN**

We All Are One in Mission

WOV, "Blue", 755

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

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OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, 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, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, Tom Waffenschmidt, George Poliska, California Wild Fire Victims, First Responders, and the family of Linda Mann.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for January 19

Regular Offering	\$1,887.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Disaster Relief	500.00
Grand Total	\$2,407.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of medical professionals and humanitarian workers who travel to war-torn areas to care for those in need, by the Haussmann Family; in loving memory of my husband George Bjornstad, by Sally Bjornstad.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 26, 2025

Lector	8 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Theresa Furman
Communion Assistants	8 am	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 am	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wenzel
Ushers	8 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Albright Team
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JANUARY)		Deb Buckman

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, January 26 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am
 Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, January 27 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, January 28 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Wednesday, January 29 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Thursday, January 30 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Friday, January 31 Office Closed

Saturday, February 1 Office Closed

Sunday, February 2 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
 Sunday School, 9:15 am

BIRTHDAYS

Marc Kinney	1/26
Sean Buckman	1/28

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized others across the country to raise more than \$100 million for people in need since its inception.

This February, St. Mark's will once again join churches all across the country in the Souper Bowl of Caring and collect money and food for the hungry and homeless in our community. Our donations of non-perishable food items will be given to the United Churches Food Pantry to help stock their shelves. Monetary donations (please mark checks with Souper Bowl) will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference!

CONGRATULATIONS to our new Congregational Council Officers (elected January 20, 2025):

President, Vicki Hausmann

Secretary, Ray Huff

Treasurer, Deb Buckman

The office of Vice-President remains open at this time but will be elected at the February meeting of the Council.

Please offer your congratulations to our new officers and keep them, as well as all the ministries and members of St. Mark's, in prayer.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, 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.

To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion”, updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbour@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

COMMEMORATIONS

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Sunday, January 26, 2025

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.



Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Monday, January 27, 2025

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.



Arise, Your Light Has Come!



- 1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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