

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 9, 2025**

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



**Holy Communion (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

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

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.

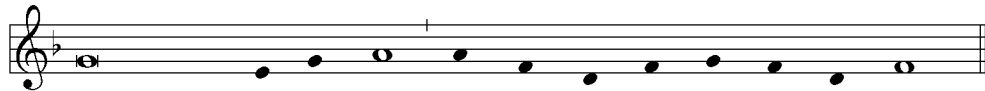
***HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty LBW, "Green," 165**

***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. Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 6:1-13

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” 9 And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’

10 Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

11 Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

12 until the LORD sends everyone far away,

and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

13 Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

2 **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

3 When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

4 **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

5 They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

6 **The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right | hand shall save me.

8 **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands.**

THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I
proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through

which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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.

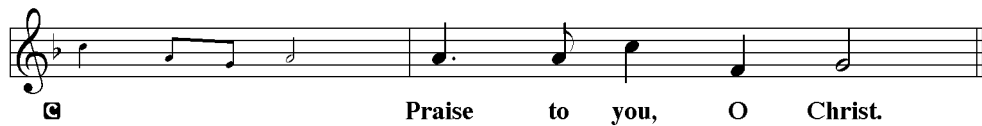
***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 5:1-11**

Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 5th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

1 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got

into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” 5 Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord (Bulletin)**

***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.

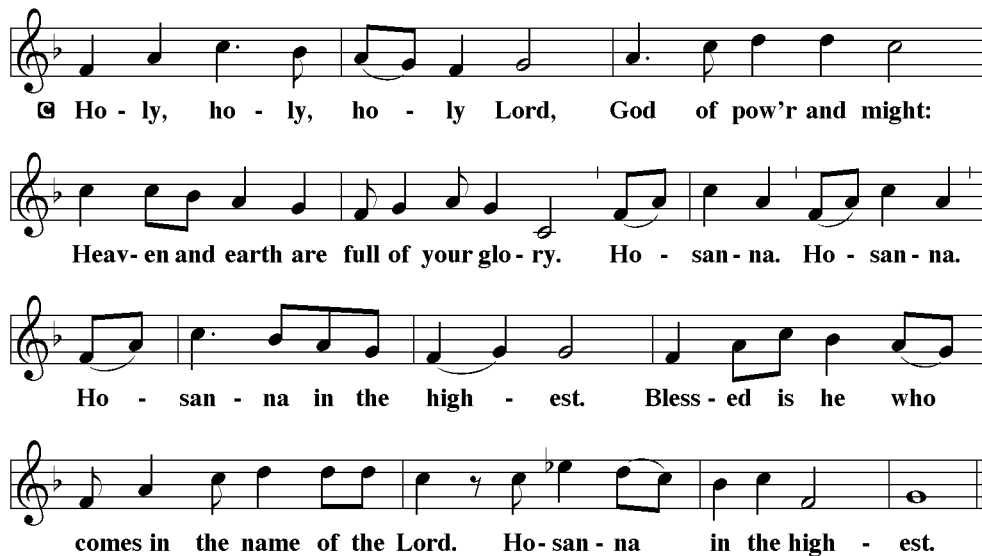


☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☑ 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.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
 proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
 and to announce that the time had come to save your people.

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.

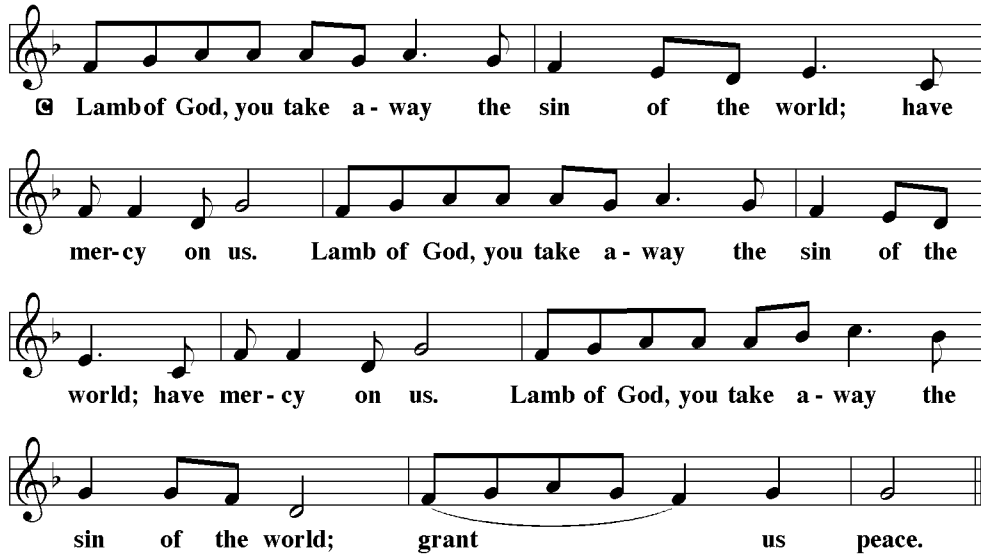
All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

***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**

Here I Am, Lord

WOV, "Blue," 752

***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, 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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for February 2, 2025

Regular Offering	\$4,474.00
Plate Offerings	65.00
Christmas & Advent	75.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Food Pantry	50.00

OUR STEWARDSHIP continued

Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Grand Total	\$5,019.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and
in loving memory of our parents, Luella & Lawrence Bair, by the children;
and in loving memory of Robert & Shirley Campbell, by the family.

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 9, 2025

Lector	8 am	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 am	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Shelby and Gary Weber
Ushers	8 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller
	10:30 am	Gary and Shelby Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (FEBRUARY)		Shelby and Gary Weber

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

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

Monday, February 10 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, February 11 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm
 West Branch Conference, 9:30 am

Wednesday, February 12 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Thursday, February 13 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
 Faith Formation, 10:45 am
 City Pastors' Lunch, 1 pm

Friday, February 14 Office Closed

Saturday, February 15 Office Closed

Sunday, February 16 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
 Sunday School, 9:15 am

BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Greevy	2/10
Charlene Wright	2/10
Emily Newcomer	2/13
Michele Owen	2/13
Elsie Sechler	2/13



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.

Today, 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 will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards (please mark checks with “Souper Bowl”).

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!



Help Needed

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs your help with the following projects. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give.

Valentine's Day cards for our Special Concern Folks and others are available today in the Narthex. Please send a card or two and brighten someone's day.

Daniel's Closet has reported that donations of winter clothing and accessories are down. Please consider taking another look in your closets for items that could be given to them. Check the February Lion for details.

Sojourner Truth Ministries is in great need of granulated sugar (boxes or bags) and brown paper lunch bags. Donations may be placed in the Narthex closet.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

Brochures for the 2025 season are available in the church office.

Camp Mount Luther is accepting applications for 2025 summer staff. To apply, please use the contact information below.



If you can't wait for the season to begin, there is a Taste of Camp event scheduled for Sunday, February 23, from 2-4 pm at Camp Mount Luther. There will be songs, games, food, campfire and a 2025 program release.

Returning and new campers, still-thinking-about-it campers, parents, supporters, and anyone else who wants to have a good time are invited to attend.

Immediately following the Taste of Camp event, there is a Funding Raising Dinner in Evergreen Center. Suggested minimum donation is \$15/person. Please RSVP by February 18, 9 am, to cml@campmountluther.org.

Contact Camp Mount Luther for more information at (570) 922-1587 or by email at cml@campmountluther.org.



AN IDEA FOR A BIBLE STUDY

Dear People of St. Mark's,

Many of you have expressed an interest in a bible study of the Book of Revelation. It would seem logical to undertake such a study during Advent, Lent or perhaps in Ordinary Time (late September/early October). However, the time period of those seasons would be so brief I don't think we could give to the Book of Revelation the serious study it deserves. Therefore, I am proposing the following. Would there be interest in setting aside a study of this New Testament Book of Prophecy during our Sunday School time (9:30 am, Sunday mornings) beginning March 2? Would “you” be interested? Would “you” attend? Please indicate your preference below and place it in the offering plate with your offering by Sunday, February 23.

+ Yours in Christ, Pastor Vasey

.....

Name

Yes/No

I would attend

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 updated on new addresses, phone numbers, change in marital status, etc., please inform the church office so that we can include this information in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion.” If you have any information that relates to this, please send an email to jbaur@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

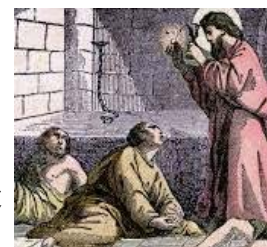
Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

COMMEMORATION

Valentine, Fourth Century Martyr

Friday, February 14, 2025

Valentine was a Christian teacher in Rome who was imprisoned for his faith. While incarcerated, through prayer, he restored sight to the blind daughter of the jailer. Before his imprisonment he officiated at a number of weddings of Christian soldiers who because of their oath to the emperor were forbidden to marry. To defy the emperor meant execution. On way to the gallows he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter of farewell praising Christ and God's love. He signed it, *from your Valentine*.



Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

Friday, February 14, 2025

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

Holy, Holy, Holy



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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