

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 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

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all

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**

Jesus Shall Reign

LBW, "Green," 530

***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. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 17:5-10

5 Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

7 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

10 I the LORD test the mind

and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

2 **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,**
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

4 **It is not so | with the wicked;**
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

6 **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,**
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 6:17-26**

Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.



17 [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

Christ Be Our Light

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.

ANTHEM

The Beatitudes

George Whitefield Chadwick

*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 We Know That Christ is Raised**

LBW, “Green”, 159

***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 9, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$1,790.00 |
| World Hunger | 50.00 |
| Food Pantry | 50.00 |
| Initial Offering | 10.00 |
| Food Pantry | 50.00 |
| Global Mission | 50.00 |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | 35.00 |
| Synod Benevolence | 10.00 |
| Souper Bowl | 75.00 |
| Evangelism & Fellowship | 25.00 |
| Grand Total | \$2,095.00 |

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and
in Celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 16, 2025

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Lector | 8 am | Candy Dewar |
| | 10:30 am | Mary Ann Stiller |
| Communion Assistants | 8 am | Nikki Jackson |
| | 10:30 am | Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler |
| Ushers | 8 am | Herb Poff and Dick Miller |
| | 10:30 am | Matt Fortin, Glenn Yaple, Mel Wentzel |

Organist Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (FEBRUARY) Shelby and Gary Weber

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

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

Monday, February 17 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Council Meeting, 6 pm

Tuesday, February 18 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Wednesday, February 19 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm
Holy Communion at Williamsport Home, Bldg. "A", 2 pm

Thursday, February 20 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Pastor attends Continuing Education Event

Friday, February 21 Office Closed

Saturday, February 22 Office Closed

Sunday, February 23 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am

BIRTHDAYS

Rick Robertson 2/17

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent and Diane Bardsley 2/18

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 may include this information in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion”, updates on the information. 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.



SOUPER BOWL

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring! This year our congregation’s “can prediction” for a Philadelphia Eagles win was accurate. Dare I say we even predicted the blowout win with our can totals of KC ~ 14, Eagles ~ 95. Congrats, Eagles fans!

More importantly though, the United Churches Food Pantry came up with a big win! Thanks to your generous donations, 109 cans of food will be delivered to the food pantry to be used in their outreach ministries. In addition, \$177.00 was collected, and this will be used to support several local ministries including the United Churches Food Pantry and Sojourner Truth Ministries.

Thank you, St. Mark’s, for being a blessing to our Williamsport community through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Your generosity continues to know no bounds. Truly a WIN for all involved!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thank the congregation for their generous support of our Valentine Day card ministry. With last week’s winter storm canceling the 8:00 service and keeping attendance reduced at the 10:30 service, we were concerned we would not be able to send all our cards. We were

humbled by the congregation's willingness to take several cards each so our Special Concern Folks would get cheery greetings. We are blessed indeed.

YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT

Calling all youth! Sunday, February 16, 2025 2-5 PM

Do you enjoy church but wish there were more kids your own age? Well then we have good news for you! You are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's gathering on Sunday, February 16, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Milton Lutheran Church. The theme is Trivia Night.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited! This is event is held in partnership with Camp Mount Luther. We hope to see you there!



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



HELP NEEDED

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

This committee needs the congregation's help in providing desserts for Redeemer's community dinner on March 13, 2025. We are requesting boxes of Tastykake cupcakes of any kind. Donations may be placed on the table in the Narthex. Many of our local supermarkets run specials weekly. Donations are due by March 9, 2025.

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. please use the contact information below.



Taste of Camp event is Sunday, February 23, from 2-4 pm at Camp Mount Luther. There will be songs, games, food, campfire and a 2025 program release.

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.

COMMEMORATION



Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

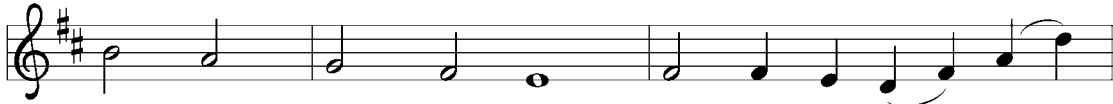
Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Reformation of the 16th Century.

Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
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