## St. Mark's Lutheran Church The Transfiguration of our Lord March 2, 2025

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 <a href="mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org">stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452) Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor <a href="mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org">bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>



## 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

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

#### **PRELUDE**

Prelude in a Classic Style Gordon Young

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Kneel/stand.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act

with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In + Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

## \*HYMN O God, Beyond All Praising

No Reference Available

#### \*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.

#### \*KYRIE



#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE



#### \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

## And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### THE FIRST READING......Exodus 34:29-35

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; 34 but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 99

1 The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.

2 The LORD, | great in Zion,

is high a- | bove all peoples.

- 3 Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome; God is the | Holy One.
- 4 O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity; you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob.
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore God's footstool; God is the | Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your | name, O LORD,

they called upon you, and you | answered them,

7 you spoke to them out of the pil- | lar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree | that you gave them.

## 8 O LORD our God, you answered | them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their | evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill; for the LORD our God is the | Holy One.

THE SECOND READING....... 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 13 not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. 14 But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. 15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 4:1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### \*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*THE GOSPEL....Luke 9:28-43a
The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.



28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. 37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." 41 Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." 42 While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43a And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

The gospel of the Lord.



#### THE SERMON

## \*HYMN How Good, Lord, to Be Here

LBW, "Green," 89

#### \*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.

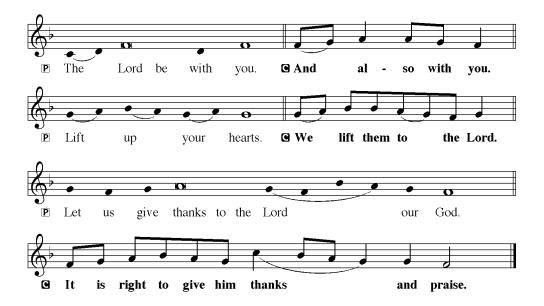
And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

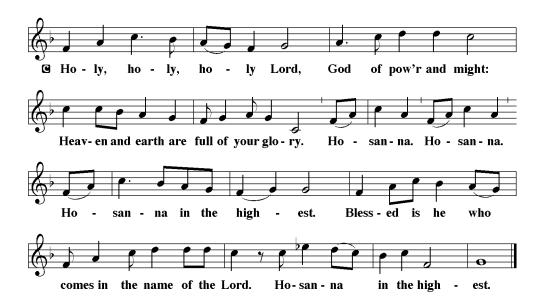
#### **ANTHEM**

Peace I Leave with You Amy Beach

#### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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,

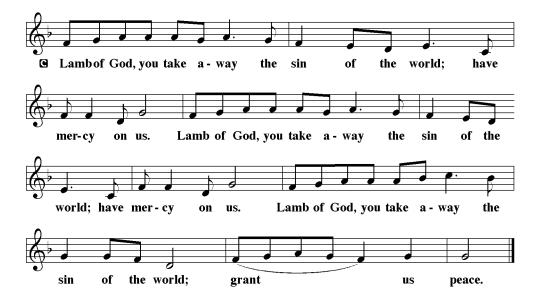
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

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



#### \*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 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light WOV, "Blue," 649

#### \*DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

#### THE POSTLUDE

Choral-Improvisation on Nun Danket alle Gott Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

#### **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, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh.

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for February 23, 2025**

Regular Offering	\$2,282.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Grand Total	\$2,792.00

## ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and

In loving memory of Dr. Ted Larson and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Shipman by Jane Larson; and

In loving memory of Robert & Anna Kuntz and Marty Kuntz by Ann & Charles Kuntz; and

In celebration of our St. Mark's family.

#### WORSHIP LEADERS March 2, 2025 8 am Vicki Haussmann Lector 10:30 am Donna Clark Communion Assistants 8 am Brian Jackson 10:30 am Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel Herb Poff and Dick Miller Ushers 8 am 10:30 am Tim and Deb Maggs, Dick Reitz

Organist Sam Robinson

Altar Guild (MARCH) Bev Heiber & Audrey Albright

#### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, March 2 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, March 3 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, March 4 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

"Fastnacht Celebration", 6 pm., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday

Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Holy Communion, 12:05 pm, Chapel

Holy Communion, 7pm, Nave

Thursday, March 6 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Friday, March 7 Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm

Saturday, March 8 Church Office Closed

Sunday, March 9 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Gary and Donna Clark 3/6

#### 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, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion". Thank You!



A study of the Book of Revelation began today during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.

Lenten Bible study begins on Wednesday, March 12 at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our study this year will be discovering what the Bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.

Dear St. Mark's Family.

Thank you for remembering me on my birthday with, not only one hospitality, but two! I was happy and honored to share goodies with you as I continue to marvel at your love shown toward me. Most appreciated!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Brian Vasey

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.

Code Blue, the emergency overnight housing for the homeless, is in need of our help. Early in January we took lots of prepackaged snacks, gift cards for groceries and new pillows. Our cold winter nights have seen 30 homeless individuals per night. Presently Code Blue is in urgent need of prepackaged snacks for the brown bag lunch given to each person the following morning. Please

consider donating any individual snack item that one would pack for a lunch. Snacks may be placed on the table in the Narthex.

**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.

Lutheran Carolina and California to respond to the natural disasters in those areas. If you would like to contribute items for personal care kits, please place them in the bin in the

Narthex. The kits include cotton towels (20" x 40" up to 27" x 52"), bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. Kits will be assembled beginning in April. Also, you can donate money either directly to LWR at PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832 or a check made out to the church with LWR in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity in helping people have have lost everything.

Our hosting for Family Promise begins today. Thank you to those who signed up for or contributed to this week's meals. Our next hosting is June 15-22.





"I took each item out of my box one by one. I wanted to rejoice for everything." ~ Andy, shoe box recipient.

Please consider donating to our shoebox collections this month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them.

In March, we will be collecting: Combs/Brushes/Hair Accessories

Toothbrushes
Toothbrush Holder
Mini Flashlights

Monetary donations are also welcome as we are looking into including "Grow With Me" shoes in this year's boxes. While these are a bit pricey at \$20.00/pair, they adjust over time and can "grow" 5 sizes as the child's foot grows. These shoes are often needed for children to attend school so receiving them is a huge

blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line.

These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!

\*The age ranges for both boy and girl boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14

Don't suffer another long, boring summer! Come to camp and create friendships, memories, and faith that will last a lifetime!

3 easy steps to your best summer ever

- 1. Check out our 2025 Summer Camp brochure (located in the church office) and pick your program.
- 2. Register (scholarships are available).
- 3. Pack your bags and come to camp!

#### www.campmountluther.org

570-922-158 or cml@campmountluther.org

#### **COMMEMORATIONS**

# John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Sunday, March 2, 2025

These brothers led a revival within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in





England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

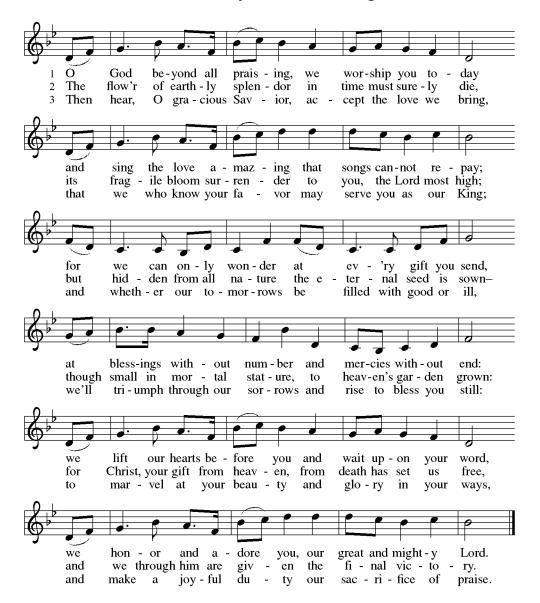
# Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Friday, March 7, 2025

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had

forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

## O God beyond All Praising



Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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## How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, The Church Psalter and Hymn Book, 1854

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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## **EASTER LILY ORDER FORM**

Name:	Envelope#:
Telephone:	
I am ordering:	
Asiatic Lilies (6" assorted)	@ \$9.00 = \$
Easter Lilies (6" Easter Lily 1 bulb)	@ \$9.00 = \$
Easter Lilies (12" Easter Lily 2 bulbs)	@ \$17.00 = \$
and/or a gift for other decorations = S	\$
and/or a <i>donation to Local Hunger</i> =	\$
These are given: (if more room is needed use the bar	ck of the card)
In Honor of (living person)	
In Memory of (deceased)	

All flower orders *must* be in by March 26, 2025

The flowers will be available for you to take following the late Easter Service.