THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER April 27, 2025 St. Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 <u>stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452) Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's! This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



An Order for Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am (Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two)

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

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book *Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,

waters that make a people your own,that restore to wholeness,and empower us to be witnesses in your name.Baptized into you, O Living One,make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

*HYMN The Day of Resurrection	No Reference Available
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The Day of Resurrection!



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

***THE GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***KYRIE**



***HYMN OF PRAISE**



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded

hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

27 When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:14-29

14 The LORD is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation.

15 Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous: "The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!

- 16 The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!
 - The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"
- 17 I shall not | die, but live,

and declare the works | of the LORD.

- 18 The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- 19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.

- 20"This is the gate | of the LORD; here the righ- | teous may enter."
- 21 I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.
- 23 By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the | LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

25 Hosanna! | O LORD, save us!

We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD;

we bless you from the house | of the LORD.

27 The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.

28 You are my God, and | I will thank you;

you are my God, and I | will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;

God's mercy en- | dures forever.

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*THE GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. John, the 20th chapter.



¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

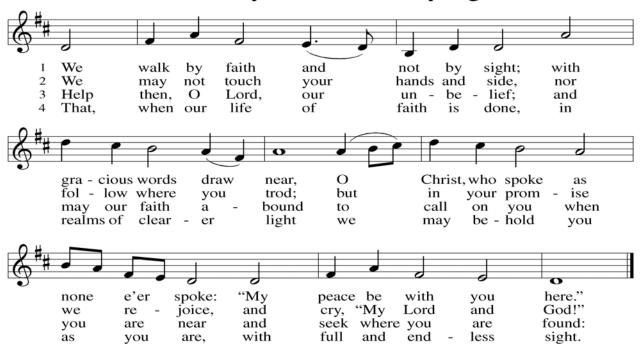
30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight WOV, "Blue," 675



We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

***THE NICENE CREED**

Together with the whole church, we confess our faith: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

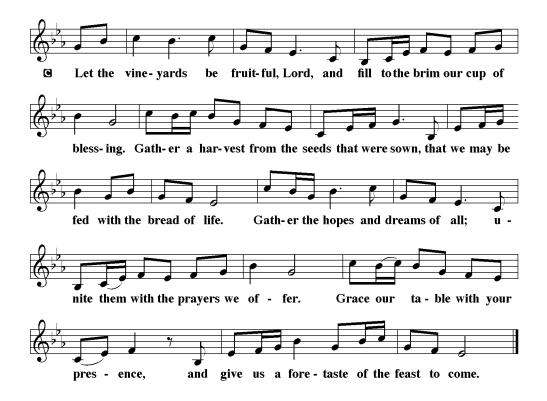
***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

After each petition: Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

***OFFERING**



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace

along with these gifts we bring.

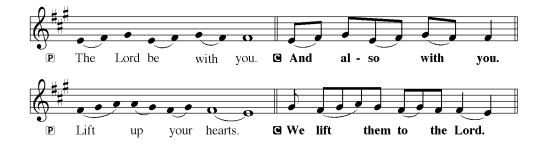
Come among us again,

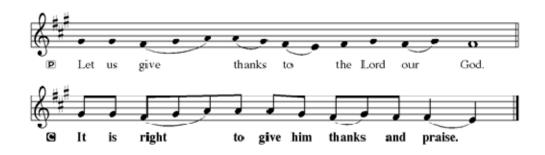
breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

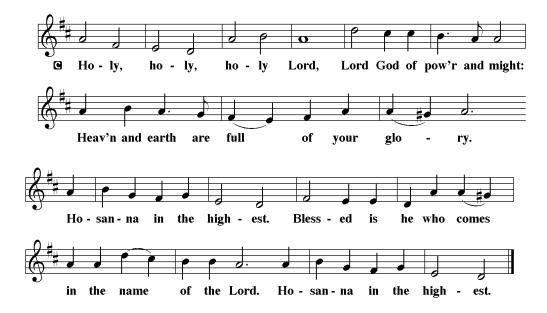
that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

***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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from our slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it his disciples, saying, "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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover

from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts or bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*LAMB OF GOD





***INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life!

Alleluia! 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 the bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

THE COMMUNION

***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**

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

Amen.

***HYMN** Thine Is the Glory

LBW, "Green," 145

Thine Is the Glory



Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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, Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible and the Family of Carl Hieber.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for April 20, 2025

Regular Offering S	58,229.00
Plate Offerings	161.00
Easter	1,635.00
Lent	100.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
World Hunger	50.00
Capital Fund	800.00
Flower Memorials/Tribute	s 35.00
Synod Benevolence	800.00
Memorials	25.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	d 10.00
Grand Total \$1	11.995.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and In honor of Edwin Jackson by Brian Jackson; and In loving memory of Prudence & William Waldeisen and Margaret & Herbert Poff by the Family

WORSHIP LEADERS for April 27, 2025

Lector	8 am	Brian Jackson		
	10:30 am	Gary Weber		
Communion Assistants	8 am	Brian Jackson		
Communion Assistants	-			
	10:30 am	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel		
Ushers	8 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller		
	10:30 am	Carl Albright, Gair Family		
Organist		Sam Robinson		
Altar Guild (APRIL)		Matt and Wanda Fortin		
THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S				
Sunday, April 27	Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am			
	Sunday School, 9:15 am			
Monday, April 28	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm			
Tuesday, April 29	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm			
Wednesday, April 30	•			
wednesday, April 50	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm			
Thursday, May 1	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm			
Friday, May 2	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm			
Saturday, May 3	Graveside, 11 am			
Sunday, May 4	Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am			
	•			
	Sunday School, 9:15 am			
	Worship and Music meets following 10:30 Service			
BIRTHDAYS	Servi			
Ruth Ditchfield	4/29 Aud	rey Comerford 4/28		
Happy belated birthday to Brian Jackson 4/14				

Happy belated birthday to Brian Jackson 4/14

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy belated anniversary to Brian & Nikki Jackson 4/7

KEEP IN MIND:

~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."

ADDRESS CHANGE:

April Clark, 161 South Main Street, Apt. 22, Pittston, PA 18640



BIBLE STUDY

A study of the Book of Revelation takes place in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study

through May 25. Please join us.

LWR is in desperate need of items for North 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 after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 27. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.

EASTER THANKS

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their help in sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks. We are certain these messages brought cheer to those receiving them. Also, many thanks to Deb Buckman for her efforts with the card ministry box. This month Deb Maggs will tend to this outreach.



<u>United Churches Food Pantry:</u> Small bags of sugar, ground coffee, canned tuna, Pop Tarts, salt and pepper sets, mayonnaise.

Shepherd of the Streets: baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby/kids body wash, baby wipes, tissues and kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Sojourner Truth Ministry: Air Freshener (light scents,) sugar, mayonnaise, ketchup, and large lunch bags.



Summer Camp brochures are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.



Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection! Our shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout

the world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity books, journals, washcloths, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved.

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals** (beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls**, **Hair Accessories**, and **Tape Measures**. These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. We hope to also order Grow With Me shoes this year to be included in as many boxes as possible. Checks may be placed with your offering, earmarked OCC. Thank you so much for your generosity! *The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (boys and girls)

ALL ABOARD THE ARK!

A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While



the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well

worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner at Hershey Farm Inn are all included in the price of \$176.77. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



Become WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A **Part of** LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. **Church** Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

COMMEMORATIONS

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Friday, May 2, 2025

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life we commend our brother in the faith Carl Heiber. Carl's Memorial Service is Monday, May 5, 2025, 11 am, St. Mark's Lutheran Church.