THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 25, 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."



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

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

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**

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

# 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 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise LBW, "Green," 526

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

#### **\*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**



6

### \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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 16:9-15

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 67

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup> Let your way be known | upon earth,

your saving health a- | mong all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples | praise you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,

and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

#### THE SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



#### \*THE GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe." The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON



#### No Reference available

#### O Spirit of Life



Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt. Music: O HELIGER GEIST, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln*, 1623

\*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, 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.

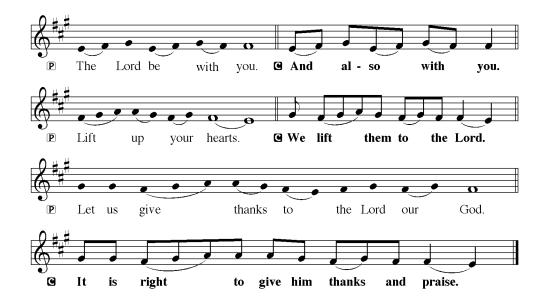
Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

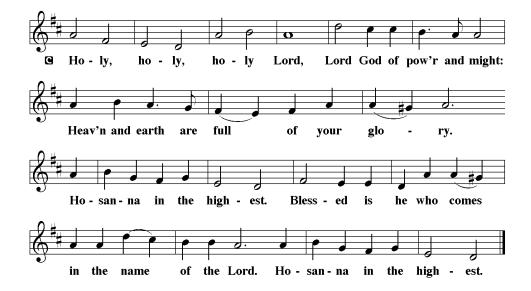
and enliven us with this meal,

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, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do 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 of 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,

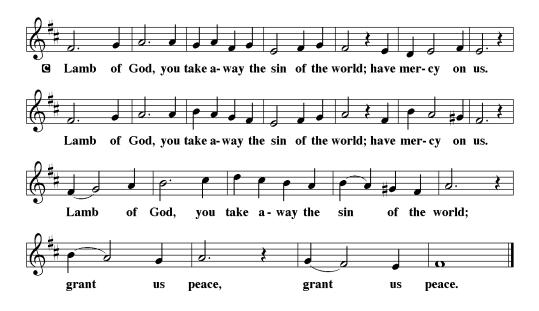
but deliver us from evil.

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 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

May our triune God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit,

light your way, now and always with resurrection dawn.

#### Amen.

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



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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## \*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, 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 Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible, and Becky Pryor.



# NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 1, WE BEGIN OUR "SUMMER SCHEDULE" OF ONE WORSHIP TIME AT 9:30 AM. ALLARE WELCOME!

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP for May 18, 2025**

The statistics for May 18, 2025 were not available when the bulletin was being prepared.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of our parents, Marion & Bill Waldeisen by Rob, Mark, Steve & Wendy Hooper; and In honor of Harper Jones's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by Sally Bjornstad.

# WORSHIP LEADERS for May 25, 2025

Lector	8 am 10:30 am	Vicki Haussmann Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	8 am 10:30 am	Drew Haussmann Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	8 am 10:30 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller Carl Albright & Gair Team
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (MAY)	Sall	y Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, May 25	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am (last calls until fall)
Monday, May 26	Office Closed- Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 27	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, May 28	Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm
Thursday, May 29	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, May 30	Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm
Saturday, May 31	Office Closed
Sunday, June 1	Holy Communion, 9:30 am

# BIRTHDAYS

Norma Prato	5/26	Walt Haussmann	5/27
Jean Soars	5/26	Owen Gair	5/30
Audrey Albright	5/27		

# **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."



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

<u>Shepherd of the Streets</u>: 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.

Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn -36" to 52" square (no polar



fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly

small items for good. "Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things."

-Samia, East Asia

In May we will be collecting Jump Ropes, Hair Accessories, Bungee Cords, Screwdrivers

Monetary donations are also welcome as we would like to include "Grow With Me" shoes in as many shoeboxes as possible this year. Shoes are a requirement to attend school, so receiving a pair is a huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line.

These items (or anything else you may find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

\*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both 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 adult price of \$176.77 and \$110.61 per child. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

**District Cinema** has partnered with United Churches of Lycoming County to provide faith-based movies at a discount to local congregations. The movie "The Last Rodeo" will be at 2p.m., Sunday, May 25. The District is located at Lycoming Mall Circle. For more information and tickets prices please call their office at 570-260-3000.

**Old Immanuel Lutheran Church**, the "mother" church of Lutheranism in Lycoming Country, will be holding its annual Memorial Service on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 2:30 pm. It is located at 2366 Lime Bluff Rd., Muncy. The Rev. Carol Johnson, of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Williamsport, will be leading the service. The DAR will be present also to formally dedicate plaques marking the final resting place of some of the patriots buried in the cemetery. After the service is concluded, light refreshments will be served on the church lawn. All are welcome!

# Summer Hospitality!

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, smores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.



We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

# COMMEMORATIONS



John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564 *Tuesday, May 27, 2025* A systematic theologian and an interpreter of scripture, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the churches in the Reformed Tradition.

# Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

*Thursday, May 29, 2025* 

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.



#### Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Saturday, May 31, 2025

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song we call, "The Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-51).



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