

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: www.stmarksharrisburg.org

E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please enjoy the opportunity to observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

~Philipp Nicolai

HYMN *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet*

Organ Only—No Singing

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,

whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin —
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.**

Amen.

P How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community

living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C Amen.

Greeting

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

C And also with you

Spoken **Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you

said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 111

Read in Unison

**Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

**Great are your works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

**Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.**

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

**You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.**

**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

**The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.**

**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's
praise endures forever**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the

temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken

Alleluia. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned.

The Holy Gospel according to St Mark the 1st Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him

and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit HYMN #504 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*
Organ Only

Stand **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

A Let us pray

C Have mercy, O God,

A Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contract” sharing of the Peace until further notice.**

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A O God,

C receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.
C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

P God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.
C Amen.

Sit HYMN #311 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

Please do not leave your bulletin in the pews, dispose of
them in the Narthex in recycling can.

POSTLUDE *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

~South African

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23172. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Operating Receipts thru December 31: \$269,329

Payments made thru December 31: \$271,689

Excludes Payroll Protection Program receipts \$27,811

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

READINGS for February 7, 2021:

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Upcoming Events



2021 Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa - Canceled

Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald

January 17 | February 21

1-6pm | Free Will Offering

Don't forget you can make a gift today to support the ministries of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

We are hiring summer staff to help make this the best summer ever for our campers and guests. Serve others, grow in faith & community, and have a blast working at camp this summer! Learn more and apply online on the website.

SUMMER CAMP
NOW HIRING CAMP STAFF



COUNSELORS
Lifeguards
Kitchen Staff

Maintenance
Craft Staff

Why Apply?

- Impact Lives
- Share Your Faith
- Meet New People
- Experience New Places
- Spend The Summer Outdoors

Apply ONLINE At
LutheranCamping.org/employment

Kirchenwald
Lebanon, PA
Zach Weiss
zweiss@lutherancamping.org
717-964-3121

Nawakwa
Arendtsville, PA
Mike Youse
myouse@lutherancamping.org
717-677-8211

*Ministry sites of
The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania*

SIMPLY GIVING – A Simple Choice: A Generous Response & Save Paper. Simply Giving is the program St. Mark's uses to enable electronic transfer for church donations. Most people use similar methods to make recurring payments for utilities, mortgages, etc. Why not save paper and make it easier for yourself, and the Counters here at St Mark's. Sign up and support our programs with regular donations that are safe, reliable, and conserve paper resources.

If you are already enrolled consider increasing the amount at this time. Forms are available in the narthex and on bulletin boards, or ask at the office.

ONLINE GIVING - is also available on our website, stmarksharrisburg.org. Click the GIVE tab and follow the instructions. **ON LINE GIVING IS SEPARATE FROM SIMPLY GIVING.** If you use both you will be giving twice. Changes to **SIMPLY GIVING** must, for the time being, be made by paper form only. Thanks for your generous stewardship.

ATTENTION: So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if you have changes to your name, address phone number and your email address changed, you can call or send your updated information to church office.

Altar Flowers No flowers until church opens back up.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTORS - Zara Bennett

FLOWER DELIVERY -

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

Birthdays for January

01/02 – Phyllis Mengel	01/12 - Marcia Forlizzi
01/03 – Roberta Wege	01/13 – Fritz Ulrich
01/03 – Troy Spencer	01/13 – Clay Spencer
01/04 – Hailey Neidig	01/13 – Brent Spencer
01/04 – Alice Graham	01/14 – Shyese Brown
01/05 – Kenny Baranowski	01/15 - Deb Banks
01/06 – Elizabeth Baranowski	01/15 – Jeffery Weldon
01/07 – Courtney Miller	01/15 – Christina Dinger
01/08 – Andrew Simpler	01/21 - Susanne Smithers
01/09 – Samuel Flook	01/22 – Teaghan Davis
01/09 – Chaz Evans	01/27 – Rebekah Hengst
	01/28 – Bonita Lengel