

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

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 sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

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

INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Hymn Medley for Reflection*

Just a Closer Walk—Precious Lord - My Faith -

*Let Justice Flow—What a Friend—Come, Ye Thankful -
Christ Be Our Light*

HYMN #632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Organ Only—No Singing

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

C Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through + Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

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 O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through
life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need,
and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **First Reading:** **Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD
would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it
would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no
substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and
righteousness in the community.*

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain
offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 70

READ IN UNISON

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and
confounded;**

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back
and be disgraced.**

**Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.**

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is
the Lord!"**

**But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O
God.**

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring

with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are
stirred.**

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25th Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became

drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit **HYMN #436** *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*
Organ Only

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 Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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.

C And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of all goodness,

**C generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.**

Number us among them

**that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.**

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you,

C And also with you

Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

P There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Spoken **Lamb Of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit **Communion Distribution**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

**A We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond
compare, the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all
who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same
Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

**P May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!**

**The blessing of God,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.**

C Amen.

Sit **HYMN #638 *Blessed Assurance***

Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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 #439 *Soon and Very Soon* ~Spiritual

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Operating Receipts thru October 31: \$217,585

Payments made thru October 31: \$229,092

Attendance: 11/01/2020 51

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

Readings for November 15, 2020:

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm: 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Second Reading: [1 Thessalonians](#) 5:1-11

Gospel: [Matthew](#) 25:14-30

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.

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 - Laurie Womer; Sandy Sherwood

FLOWER DELIVERY - Tracy Ingram

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God by Margaret and John Herigan in thankfulness for the blessings of 60 years of Marriage.

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.

Birthdays for November

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11/03– Maryann Gelehrter | 11/27 – Donald Gutshall |
| 11/03 –Elliot Walak | 11/27– Isaiah Allen (Willis) |
| 11/03- James Person | 11/28 –Ryan Cleaver |
| 11/04 - Hailey Neidig | |
| 11/04- Susan Shultz | |
| 11/07- George Kaufman | |
| 11/08- Thomas Stohler | |
| 11/09– Vaughn Heym | |
| 11/10 – Samantha Romanias | |
| 11/10 – Brent Whitaker | |
| 11/14 – Richard Botts | |
| 11/14 – Susan Dillahey | |
| 11/16– Julia Zingone | |
| 11/17– Floyd Sholder | |
| 11/18 – Gary Schwartz | |
| 11/20 – Sandy Dinger | |
| 11/22 - Heidi May | |
| 11/23– Rick Beckley | |
| 11/24 –Christine Wnuk | |
| 11/24 – Tracey Swetnam | |

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



2020 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - **Canceled**

Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald - [Register Now!](#)

Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa - [Register Now!](#)

*** Masks & social distancing required at all LCC events ***

Women's Craft Retreat - November 6-8 has been canceled.

Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 5, 2020

- Join us as we guide you in contemplative, hope-filled watching and waiting for the birth of the Christchild. \$15.00 per person includes lunch.

Advent/Christmas in the Barn at the Wittel Farm - December 20 7:00-8:30pm

Annual Quilt Auction

Join us from November 1-8 online for this virtual event!

Follow along at the Quilt Auction Website

Women's Craft Retreat at Nawawa

November 6-8 | \$155

*** Masks & social distancing required at all LCC events***

Registration is limited to 20 participants - Register Now!

SUPPORT THE CAMPS

Make a gift today to support the ministries of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird

Sanctuary