

**ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PENNSBURG, PA**

**January 3, 2021**

**Pastor David Penman**

**Office: 215 679-9015 Cell: 757-202-0105**

**E-mail: [stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com](mailto:stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com)**

**Web site: [www.stmarkspennsburg.com](http://www.stmarkspennsburg.com)**

**Pastor's E-mail: [dnpenman@gmail.com](mailto:dnpenman@gmail.com)**

**Director of Music: Judith A. Love**

**Soloist**

**Jill Haldeman**

**Lay Reader**

**Joan Brunner**

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.  
**Amen.**

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

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**  
**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**  
**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**  
**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,**  
**those we know and those known only to you,**  
**for the sake of the one who came to live among us,**  
**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

v.1: The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel

v.3: And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain.

v.5: Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3: 1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

<sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

<sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Sell

## MESSAGE

Heather Schmitt and Connie Taglieber

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Morning Star How Fair and Bright*

Robert A. Hobby  
Judy Love, Organ

## APOSTLES' CREED

Together, with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling (*especially* **Florence, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, David, Paul, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June and Harold.** Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Prepare the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

Gathered together in your homes, you may now offer communion to each other saying  
“This is my body which is given for you” when you offer the wafer/bread; and then hold up  
the juice/wine, give thanks, offer the juice/wine saying “this is my blood which is shed for you.”

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us from your very self  
with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth  
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

v.1: O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might over all possessing!

v.2: Come precious diamond, light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine; there, light a flame undying! In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life, our lives supplying. Now though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us, yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

v.3: Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure. Your word and spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let your mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For you teach us, God's own love through you has reached us.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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There will be a Church Council meeting on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM via Zoom. This is Council's reorganizational meeting held the first Monday of the new year.

We do have some copies of The Word In Season for January/February/March 2021 available. Please call the church office if you need one mailed to you. The large print ones have not yet been received.

Many thanks to all who called or sent in their votes regarding the budget and for approving the Church Council nominees for upcoming term.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Preparing for next week:

**Monday:** Matthew 2:13-18; Psalm 124; Jeremiah 31:15-17; 1 Peter 4:12-19  
**Tuesday:** John 21:20-25; Psalm 116:12-19; Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; 1 John 1:1—2:2  
**Wednesday:** 2 Peter 3:8-13; Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12  
**Thursday:** John 8:12-19; 1 Kings 3:5-14  
**Friday:** Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

