February 16, 2020
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
9 AM Holy Eucharist
In the Fellowship Center

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lappans
Founded 1849

18313 Lappans Road, Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
301-582-0417       www.stmarkslappans.org
Welcome to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

We are glad you are here and hope you will return! Please make yourself at home and if you need anything, just ask and someone will be glad to assist you. Don’t be surprised if folks around you introduce themselves to you! Please introduce yourself to those around you and the clergy after the service.

Restrooms for the Church are located in the Fellowship Center.

All baptized persons of any age are welcome to receive communion at our services. If you or a family member are not baptized and would like to know more about joining the Church and making a commitment to the Christian way of life, speak to the clergy or call the Church office. Holy Baptism is the initiation by which we become members of Christ’s body, the Church, and are invited to grow in love for God and service to others, supported by a spiritual family.

St. Mark’s was founded and the historic Church was built in 1849. The students and faculty of nearby St. James School built the church as a missionary effort and it was used as a hospital following the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg. The balcony in the historic church was restored in 2014 as a place of prayer and pilgrimage to honor the lives of our nineteenth century African American members, both slave and free. The Fellowship Center was completed in 2011 and hosts worship and gatherings for the community. St. Mark’s is part of the Diocese of Maryland, a member of the Episcopal Church and the world-wide Anglican Communion—those Churches born out of the Church of England. Of the world’s 2.2 billion Christians, we are the third largest body.

We provide gluten–free wafers and wine.
Please inform the priest of your preference when you come forward for communion.

Office: 301-582-0417
E-Mail: rector@stmarksllappans.org

Priest’s Phone: 716-949-9234
Web Page: www.stmarksllappans.org

The Rev. Virginia Carr, Priest-in-Charge
W. Kirk Denton, Organist/Choirmaster
Cindy Nelson, Parish Administrator
Dr. Trudie Holder, Business Manager

Internet WiFi Password – StMarks#1

Be sure to call the church office if you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a visit.

...forget your checkbook? Don’t carry much cash?
Use the QR Code → →

for your gifts and donations to St. Mark’s, or text “stmserves” to 77977 for mobile phone link.
THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

As you enter, please light a candle

PRELUDE  “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”  Libby Larsen

At the sound of the bell, the people stand as they are able
and face the entrance doors of the Hall

We gather in God’s name. We claim Christ’s promised presence.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 304 I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord

Opening Responses
Thanks be to you, O God, that we have come to this new day,
To the dayspring of a new year and of life itself.

May the purpose of God be between us and each purpose,
The hand of God between us and each hand.

The pain of Christ between us and each pain,
The love of Christ between us and each love.

O God, who brought us to the light of this new day,
Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

The Collect of the Day
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.
O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people sit for the lessons and Psalm
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. Our hearts and minds are open.

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
We are listening with the ears of our hearts.

The Psalm: 119:1-8

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, * who walk in the law of the Lord!
2 Happy are they who observe his decrees * and seek him with all their hearts!
   3 Who never do any wrong, * but always walk in his ways.
4 You laid down your commandments, * that we should fully keep them.
5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct * that I might keep your statutes!
6 Then I should not be put to shame, * when I regard all your commandments.
7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
8 I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.

The Epistle: I Corinthians 3:1-9
And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
We are listening with the ears of our hearts.

SEQUENCE HYMN 440 Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word

Please stand and face toward the reader

The Holy Gospel Matthew 5:21-37
The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be
thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of the darkness.’
Made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”
- II Corinthians 4:6-

The people may be seated for the Sermons

Children’s Sermon
After the children’s sermon, our youngest children are invited to Sunday School downstairs. They will return for Holy Communion.

The Sermon
The Rev. Virginia Carr, Priest-in-Charge

An Affirmation of Faith
We affirm God as our Father and creator of all that was and is and is to come. We come to know God fully in Jesus Christ; who died and rose from the dead. Through him we now have new life and have become the Children of God. We walk with God, guided by God’s Holy Spirit, who lives in us and leads us into truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God’s promises; when creation will be made whole once more and God’s peace will reign forever. Amen.
The Prayers of the People for the Epiphany Season
God of light and life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

We pray for your whole church throughout the world, for Archbishop Justin; for our diocese, Bishops Eugene and Robert, all our clergy, especially Mother Virginia+, and all our people. In our parish cycle of prayer we remember today: Linn Davison, Kirk and Elizabeth DeVore, Stuart Dunnan, Nancy Eckstine, Charles & Nancy Eichelberger, and Joseph & Mary Eichelberger.

Flame of abundant love, be our joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.

We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith and all who are struggling with faith - especially those loved ones we now name in the silence of our hearts.

Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples.

We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God’s healing touch, especially those for whom our prayers for healing are desired: Jessica Everett, Mary Staley, Joan Schrecengost, Bob Miller, Jenny Wiegand, and Val Jardine.

Comforter of the suffering, warm our hearts to serve the suffering, warm our hands to loving service.

We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away and nearby …

 Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plants life and waters which surround us.

Star blaze of glory, let your light perpetual shine on all those we love but see no longer, especially: Glenn Cordell.
And _________________________ in whose memory the altar flowers are given. And, in your good time, may we come to dwell in your eternal light.

God of radiant light, your love illuminates our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us that in our prayers and service we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

My brothers and sisters, not out of dread and fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

A moment of silence is observed for self-examination

Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, Spirit of Life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth and sky, you are with us. O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence surrounds us - nothing is hidden from you. For all the times we have not touched but trampled your creation, when we have not loved you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in the stranger - forgive us, and hear our plea for mercy.

Hear the words of Jesus for all who truly admit their lives are heading the wrong way and seek to be transformed: “Your sins are forgiven. Come and follow me.”

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity in atoning for our sins by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a halfhearted peace, but the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*
THE LITURGY OF OUR GOODS

Announcements  offering up the work of our hands

The Collection  offering up our money

Offertory Music  offering up our talents

OFFERTORY  “Psalm 127”  Emma Lou Diemer
  “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain”

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 (vs. 3)

Doxology

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of the humble sharing, as Jesus humbled himself to share with us. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Jesus who invites you to meet him here.

Let us pray together:

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord. It is right and our duty to give thanks.
We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature - with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**SANCTUS S-130**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world’s suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. 

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed and broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Whenever, you eat it, you make me present with you.”

In the same way, he took wine and having given thanks for it, he gave it to his disciples saying, “Drink this all of you: This cup is my blood of the new relationship with God, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, you make me present with you.”

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body and blood, vibrant with your life - healing, renewing, and making us whole.

And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. **Amen.**
The Lord’s Prayer
As our Savior Christ has taught us we now say or sing:
Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name, thy kingdom come, your kingdom come, thy will be done, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us. as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial, but deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread
Silence is kept for a brief period of time
He whose healing touch was offered to all is now present in this bread. He whose voice welcomed sinners offers friendship through this cup. So bring your hungering soul to this table and be fed.

The Communion of the People
Share in the communion of Christ’s body

COMMUNION MEDITATION “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”
Wayne L. Wold

The Prayer after Communion
Let us pray.
Living God, we thank you that in this sacrament we have become one with your Christ and with each other. May we who have tasted this mystery be forever changed and serve you in faith, hope and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and may the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you back rejoicing again through our doors. Amen.

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 344  Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

The Dismissal

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE  “Fidelis Servus”  Dom Paul Benoit

Celebrant: The Rev. Virginia Carr, Priest-in-Charge
Usher & Oblations: Don Humble
Chalics: Chuck Eichelberger, Cathy Ware
Acolyte: Cathy Ware, Gabriel Humble
Lector & Prayers: Cathy Ware
Organist/Choirmaster: W. Kirk Denton
Tellers: Ed Maloy, Jennie Slifer
Altar Guild: Marlene Benson
Hospitality Time: Debbie Ashbaugh
A/V System: Harry & Sue Ann Nogle