

Moxham Lutheran Church  
500 Park Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

First Sunday in Lent  
+  
March 9, 2025



## **First Sunday of Lent**

March 9, 2025 — 10:30 a.m.

### **Introducing Today's Readings**

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

### **Gathering**

*The Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,  
anoint us, and make us new.

**Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest with ourselves and confess our sin,  
and receive God's promise of mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Ever-abiding God,

**we have drifted and wandered far from your home.**

**Again and again, we lose our way.**

**Do not remember the deeds of our past,**

**but turn our faces toward the future,**

**where your forgiveness is sure,**

**your welcome is clear,**

**and your love overflows.**

**Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care.

Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day,

forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ,

leading you from death into life.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

**ELW No. 774**

## Greeting

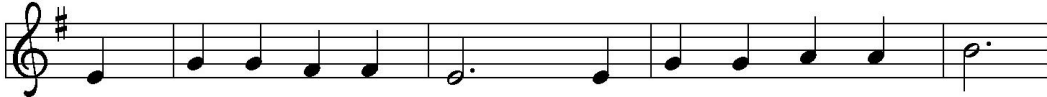
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

*Psalms 63:1*

## Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."

<sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

<sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup>**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,

<sup>10</sup>**no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

## Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8b</sup>“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

<sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Brief silence for reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day:** “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

**ELW No. 611**

## **Apostles Creed**

Reborn by God’s grace in baptism,  
we confess the faith in which we were baptized.

**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.**

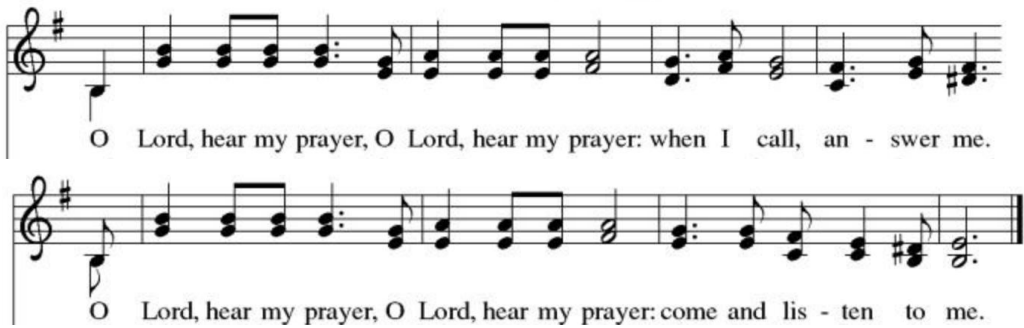
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Response:*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation and trusting in God's presence, turn toward the self-giving love of Jesus. We pray...

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve the yields of farmland for future generations. We pray...

We ask for protection for the saints and image bearers in Ukraine. Help those in authority discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the those who seek only domination and ill-gotten riches. We pray...

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion of the bounty you have given all humanity to share. We pray...

Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. We pray...

Have compassion on those experiencing illness of mind, body, or spirit, especially...  
We pray...

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share the peace of Christ with others.*

## Presentation Song: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW No. 186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,  
for in tenderness and faithful love you forgive our sins  
and guide us when we stray.  
Your son, Jesus, though one with you emptied himself,  
took on human flesh,  
and walked the path of obedience  
all the way to insult, betrayal and death.

*Christ's Words of Institution.*

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Invitation to Communion

Here is food and drink for the journey.  
Take and be filled.

### Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### Prayer after Communion

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage, and  
✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song: "As the Winter Days Grow Longer"

**ACS No. 1062**



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

## **Dismissal**

Together, we go into the world —  
**sharing God's word,  
serving others,  
growing in faith, and  
practicing stewardship as a way of life.**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

## **Serving in Worship**

**Presiding Minister:** The Rev. Rebecca West, Pastor

**Minister of Music:** Mathew Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:** Susan Bullock & Kathie McCreary

**Acolyte:** Mike McCreary

**Council Representative:** Cindy Doherty

**Lector:** Cynthia Greig + **Greeter:** Susan Bullock

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