

Christ Lutheran Church
337 Elknud Lane
Johnstown, PA 15905
(814) 255-1395



Moxham Lutheran Church
500 Park Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902
(814) 539-8664

Second Sunday of Christmas

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. + Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.
January 4, 2026

Christmas Eve has come and gone, and we begin to fall into the familiar routine of work, school, grocery shopping, and business as usual. Today we remember that Christmas is not just a day ... it is our life. The wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. God has been engaged in saving us since before time began.

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts, we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Gathering

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

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief and deep despair.**
**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing
the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of + Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

verses 1-3 **No. 275**

Christmas Greeting

Hear the Good News of great joy! It brings light and life.
May the grace and peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

Hymn of Praise

verse 4 **No. 275**

**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.**

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments.

Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation “O Word of God Incarnate”

No. 514

**O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.**

Gospel: John 1:1--18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

No. 510

Nicene Creed

Let us confess with one another that which we know to be eternally true.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven;
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

**For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this gathering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died, especially our Pastor Rebecca, as we look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a sign of Christ's peace with others.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Presentation of Gifts “Let Our Gladness Have No End”

No. 291



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
2 Proph-e - sied in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
3 See the love - liest bloom-ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Offering Prayer

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The 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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

ELW No. 295

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Thanksgiving at the Table

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

Words of Institution

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection,
which renews the face of the earth.
Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

Thanks be to God.

Feast of Love

No. 487

**What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!**

Prayer after Communion

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

Sending Song: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

No. 270

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

