

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



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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. ✙ Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.

February 8, 2026

As is often the case, the First Reading, the Psalm, and the Gospel reading have connections out of which a common theme emerges. The readings call for and celebrate a life of faithfulness in the world, and in the public arena where faith is to function openly and where social injustice is to be addressed by the faithful. This last issue of social injustice going unaddressed by the church is deeply disturbing to me, your pastor.

Isaiah 58 mocks worship preoccupied with ritual and blind to human need. Authentic worship, God says, occurs when the liturgy is joined with hands-on involvement in the needs of others. Then, the otherwise seemingly absent God is surprisingly available to a community seeking Him. “Here I am,” God says!

We are to be “light” and “salt,” Jesus says. We are functioning metaphors that DO something and do it openly in the public arena.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession
to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.

We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ.
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

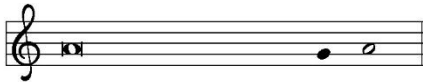
Gathering Song: "Gather Us In"

No. 532

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.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



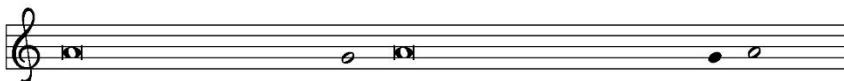
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



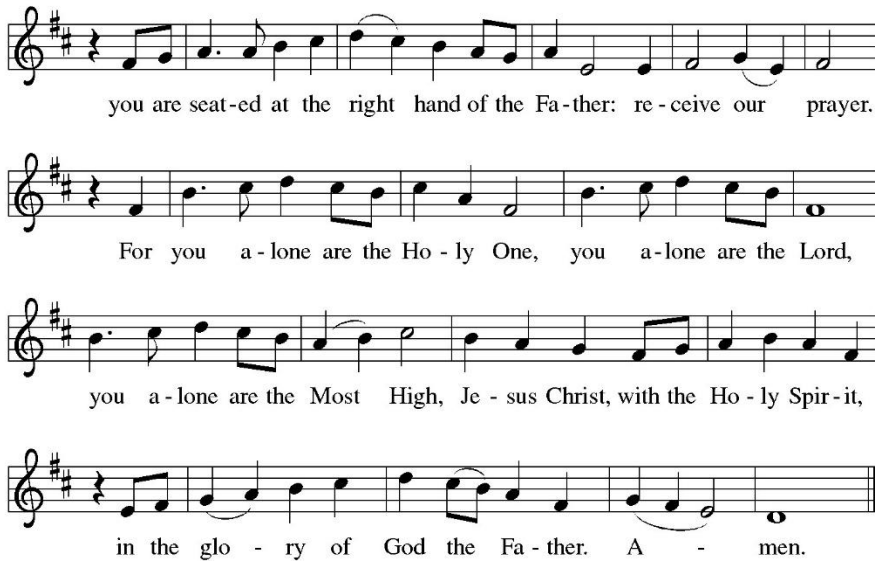
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



Prayer for the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy, you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

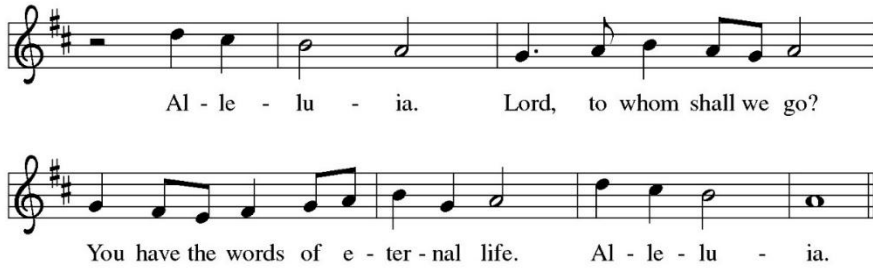
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “To Be Your Presence”

No. 546

Apostles' Creed

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith into 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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep us true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, especially in Minneapolis. And bring peace to war zones in Gaza and Ukraine. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your wisdom guides our Parish and the ministries of our congregations. Sustain our pastor, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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 “We Come to the Hungry Feast”

No. 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

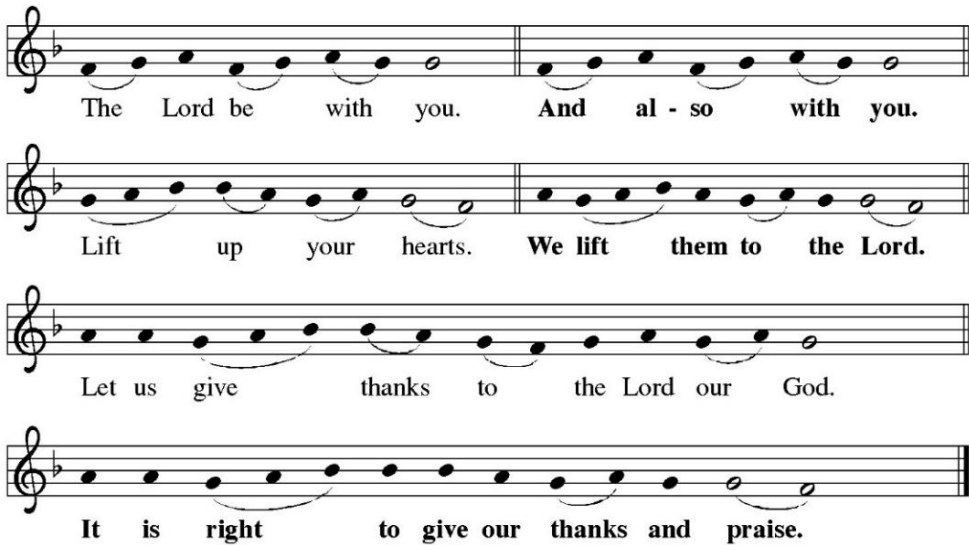


not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

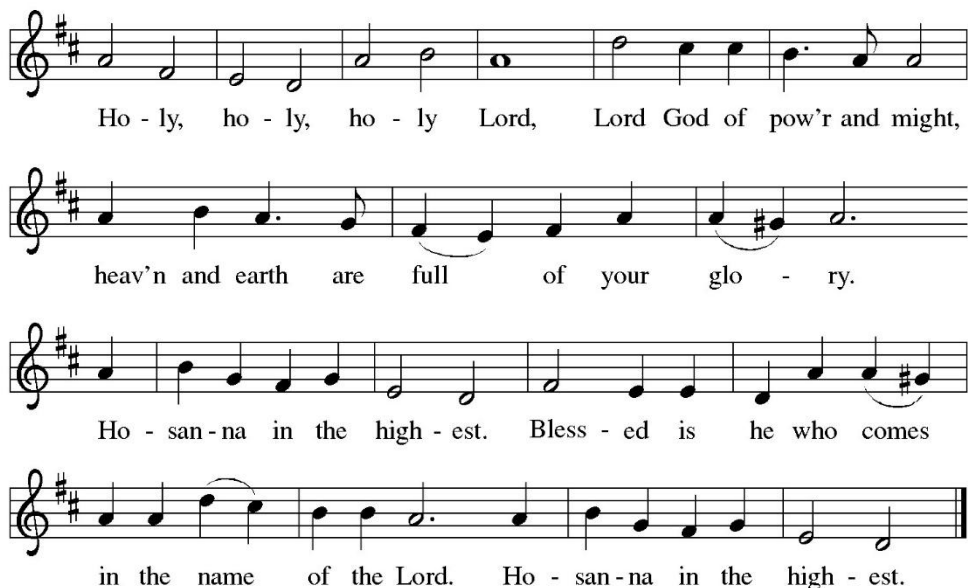
Offering Prayer

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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:



Thanksgiving at the Table

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for your mercy and justice are a light in our darkness
and your Word is like salt adding flavor to our lives
and purifying our very soul.

Before the ages, your wisdom destined us for glory
and when we failed in righteousness
turning our worship into a mask
hiding our oppression and disregard of others,
you rejected our fasts and prayers
and sent prophets and then your only begotten Son
to call us back to your ways, your passionate concerns.

Words of Institution

In Jesus we have seen the light of the world.
Through him, you gave us your Spirit,
who has begun the rebuilding of our integrity
on the ancient foundations of justice,
mercy and compassion.
Fill us now with the light of your Son, Our Lord,
who taught us when we pray to say

Lord's Prayer

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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.
Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: “Let Justice Flow like Streams”

No. 717

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

**Living Waters Lutheran Parish
Serving in Worship Today**

The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor
Cindy Doherty, Assisting Minister

At Christ, Westmont

Director of Music and Live Streaming: Mike Thomas
Communion Assistants: Denise Greco and Judy Heinze
Lector: Shannon Miller

At Moxham, Johnstown

Organist: Dan Gresh
Lector: Mark Koch
Council Rep: Rick Kirk
Communion Assistants: Kim Williams and Kathie McCreary
Greeter: Susan Bullock