

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 in Lent

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. ✚ Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.
March 1, 2026

Has this happened to you? As our head rests on the pillow and the ambient light from outside makes its way to the bedroom wall, questions begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our minds. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did we let the dog out this evening? Rats, I forgot several things at the grocery store – should I go again tomorrow? And then those routine questions, without warning, morph into our conscience: Why am I so lazy in my prayer life – and, what about my promises to fast this Lent? At this point we know that night has truly descended . . . Our spiritual inadequacies are uncovered in the darkness that are mostly hidden in the light of day.

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under the cover of darkness. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world – the light no darkness can overcome. The light of Christ calls us out from the shadows and exposes us to the brilliance of God's love – a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than love and life eternal.

Gathering

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

Preservice Music

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

*This Lenten confession provides several periods of silence
for listening, pondering, and self-reflection – all hallmarks of the Lenten Season.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you have made us your own children.
Equip us by your Spirit to recognize and confess our sin,
to embrace your forgiveness fully,
and to seek the way you set before us in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, we confess our sin.

Merciful God, forgive us.

Our will is captive to sin, and we cannot break free.

Silence

Merciful God,

we have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence

Merciful God,

we were silent when we should have spoken up.

Silence

Merciful God,

we acted wrongly when we knew better.

Silence

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, look only to the † Son,
the One given for your healing and freedom.

For God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son.

Take hold of this life – this eternal life!

Amen.

Greeting

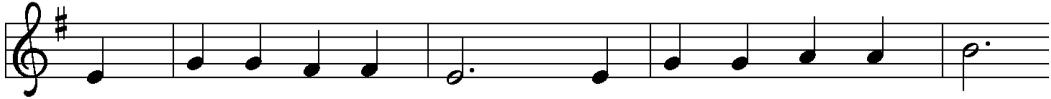
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Gathering Song “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

No. 324

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 God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism, you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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.

Children's Time

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “God Loved the World”

No. 323

The Small Catechism of Martin Luther (The Lord’s Prayer) Abbreviated

The prayer Jesus taught us to pray begins: “Our Father in heaven.”

What does this mean?

With these words God is appealing to us to come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask with boldness and in full confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

“Hallowed be your name.”

What does this mean?

It is true that God’s name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

“Your kingdom come.”

What does this mean?

In fact, God’s kingdom comes on its own without our prayers, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

“Your will be done on earth as in heaven.”

What does this mean?

In fact, God’s good and gracious will comes about without our prayers, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

“Give us today our daily bread.”

What does this mean?

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all who are evil, but we ask in this prayer that God would cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

What then does “daily bread” mean?

Everything our bodies need, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, and the like.

“Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.”

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor because of them deny our prayer; for we know we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it.

“Save us from the time of trial.”

What does this mean?

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, and despair.

“And deliver us from evil.”

What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty and holiness in our worship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance from oppression, and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by prejudice and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, be our keeper in life and in death. We thank you for your promise of eternal abiding, which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Presentation Song “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

No. 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . 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.

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Thanksgiving at the Table

We give you all thanks and praise, O God,
you made the heavens and earth, calling into existence things which were not.
You founded a people for yourself on the faithful obedience of Abraham,
and led them through your law and prophets.
From the depths of your love you sent your Son into the world,
not to condemn it, but to save it.

Words of Institution

We remember, therefore, that you raised him to life again,
and opened the life of your Kingdom
to all who believe and are born of water and Spirit.
You have called us to entrust our destinies
to the unpredictable currents of your Spirit,
and in faith follow your call into unknown places,
that we may be a blessing for all the earth.
All honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
Come to his table; taste and see.
Thanks be to God.

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

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

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

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Lift High the Cross"

No. 660

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news!
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: Linda Dobson and Denise Greco
Lector: Linda Dallape Matson

At Moxham, Johnstown

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