

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



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

Third Sunday in Lent

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. ✚ Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.
March 8, 2026

We are, as today's readings indicate, a thirsty people. We are each thirsty for all that has been missing in our lives: love, joy, fulfillment, mercy. Jesus promises to satisfy those thirsts. A Samaritan woman with a shady past and a not-so-healthy present responds to Jesus' promise of true happiness: "Give me this water, sir."

The story of the woman at the well is a challenge for all Christians: do we have a religion of thirst or satisfaction? Is ours a religion that claims to have all the answers, or one that involves us in ever deeper questions, accompanied by more wonder and mystery? Is ours a faith tradition that sees God as fulfilling our needs, or one that recognizes God is what we truly desire above all?

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.

Gathering Song “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

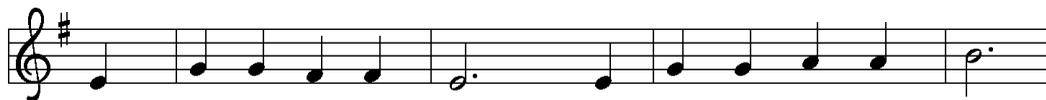
No. 533

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



- 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!

- ¹ Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
- ² **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.**
- ³ For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
- ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**
- ⁵ The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
- ⁶ **Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**
- ⁷ For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep | of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!
- ⁸ **"Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore | in my anger,
'They shall never come | to my rest.' "

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 4:5-42 From the contemporary language version – “The Message”
The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁻⁶ To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

We are seated.

⁷⁻⁸ A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”

¹¹⁻¹² The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?”

¹³⁻¹⁴ Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.”

¹⁵ The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”

¹⁶ He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “I have no husband,” she said.

“That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.”

¹⁹⁻²⁰ “Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?”

²¹⁻²³ “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

²³⁻²⁴ “It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

²⁶ “I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn’t believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

²⁸⁻³⁰ The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, “Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?” And they went out to see for themselves.

It’s Harvest Time

³¹ In the meantime, the disciples pressed him, “Rabbi, eat. Aren’t you going to eat?”

³² He told them, “I have food to eat you know nothing about.”

³³ The disciples were puzzled. “Who could have brought him food?”

³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus said, “The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. As you look around right now, wouldn’t you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I’m telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what’s right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It’s harvest time!

³⁶⁻³⁸ “The Harvester isn’t waiting. He’s taking his pay, gathering in this grain that’s ripe for eternal life. Now the Sower is arm in arm with the Harvester, triumphant. That’s the truth of the saying, ‘This one sows, that one harvests.’ I sent you to harvest a field you never worked. Without lifting a finger, you have walked in on a field worked long and hard by others.”

³⁹⁻⁴² Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman’s witness: “He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!” They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, “We’re no longer taking this on your say-so. We’ve heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He’s the Savior of the world!”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” *verses 1-4* **No. 777**

The Small Catechism of Martin Luther (Morning and Evening Blessings)

The Morning Blessing

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

“God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.”

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well:

“I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

After singing a hymn, perhaps (for example, one on the Ten Commandments) or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully.

The Evening Blessing

In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

“God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.”

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well:

“I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully.

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.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples – restrain violence, guide leaders toward wisdom and mercy, and uphold all who suffer: the grieving, wounded, and displaced – regardless of nation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant a welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to anyone in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

verses 5-6 No. 777

**5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." Refrain**

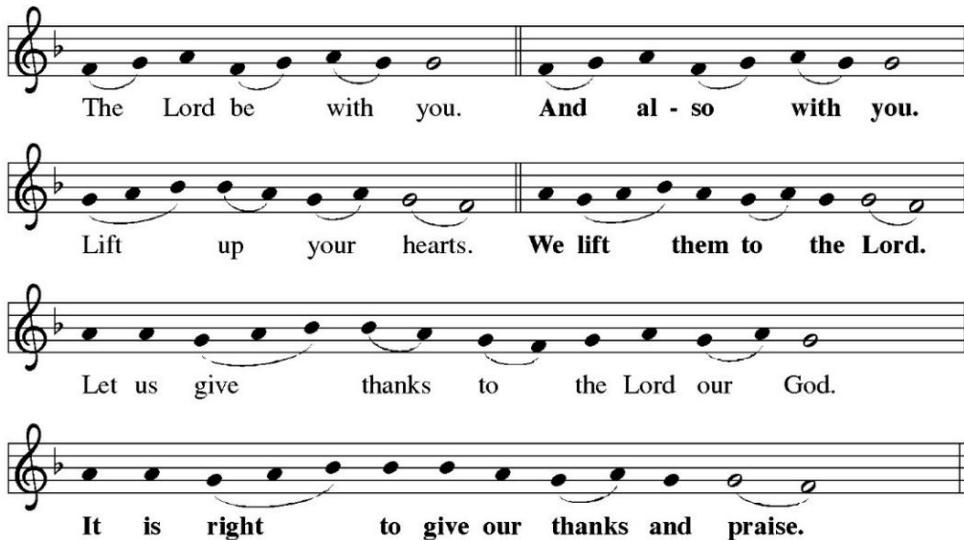
Refrain Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

**6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." Refrain**

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
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.

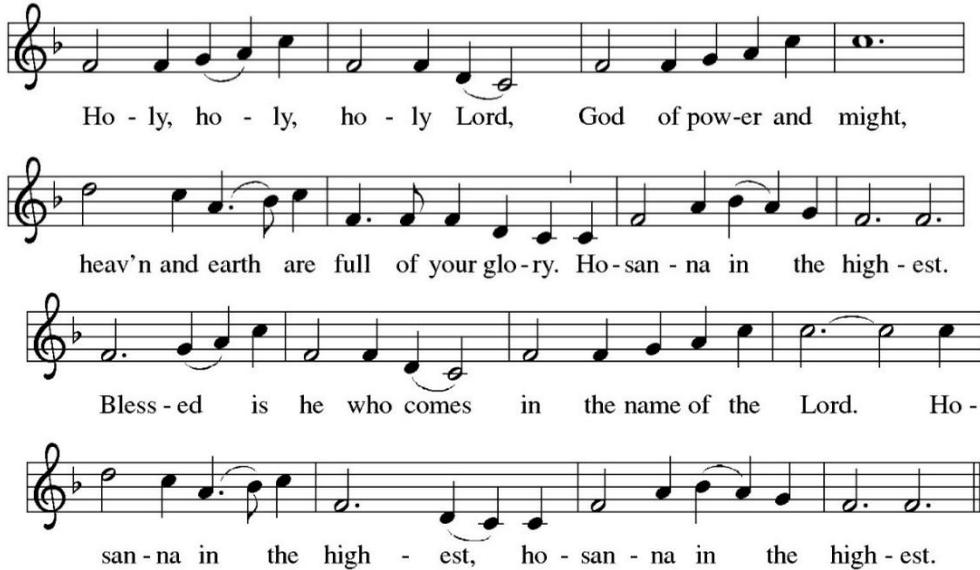
The Great Thanksgiving



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.

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

Holy God, we bless your name.
We praise you for the gift of your Son,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out His life for the world.

Words of Institution

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection,
we give you thanks for having provided for us
the living water that washes away our sin
and quenches our thirst for you,
that we may be revived for our journey.
All honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

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

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: “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

No. 658

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: Mike Crum and Judy Heinze

Lector: Jill Laslo

At Moxham, Johnstown

Organist: Dan Gresh

Lector: Diane Rugh

Council Rep: Reuben McClelland

Communion Assistants: Mark Koch and Kim Williams

Greeter: Kathie McCreary

2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006929 and #SAS127917. + New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. + Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. + Permission to reprint the music in this service obtained from One License with licenses #A-712707 and #A-728071.