

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



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



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. ☩ Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.  
March 15, 2026

The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism, God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

### 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 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

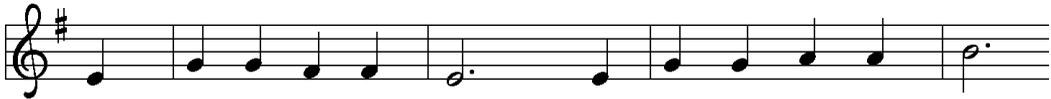
**No. 843**

**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!

**Prayer of the Day**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him, trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."

<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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 9:1-41** (From “The Message”)

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1-2</sup> Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?”

<sup>3-5</sup> Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.”

<sup>6-7</sup> He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “Sent”). The man went and washed—and saw.

<sup>8</sup> Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, “Why, isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?”

<sup>9</sup> Others said, “It’s him all right!”

But others objected, “It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.”

He said, “It’s me, the very one.”

<sup>10</sup> They said, “How did your eyes get opened?”

<sup>11</sup> “A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ I did what he said. When I washed, I saw.”

<sup>12</sup> “So where is he?” “I don’t know.”

<sup>13-15</sup> They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, “He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “Obviously, this man can’t be from God. He doesn’t keep the Sabbath.”

Others countered, “How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?” There was a split in their ranks.

<sup>17</sup> They came back at the blind man, “You’re the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?”

He said, “He is a prophet.”

18-19 The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"

20-23 His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself." (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.")

24 They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor."

25 He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see."

26 They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 "I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"

28-29 With that they jumped all over him. "*You* might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from."

30-33 The man replied, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It's well known that God isn't at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn't come from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything."

34 They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?"

38 "Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him.

39 Jesus then said, "I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind."

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees overheard him and said, “Does that mean you’re calling us blind?”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you’re accountable for every fault and failure.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day:** “O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate”

**No. 722**

**The Small Catechism of Martin Luther** (The Sacrament of the Altar)

*What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

**It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

*Where is this written?* The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and St. Paul write thus:

**“In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

*What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?*

**The words “given for you” and “shed for you for the forgiveness of sin” show us that forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament through these words, because where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.**

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such a great thing?*

Eating and drinking certainly do not do it, but rather the words that are recorded: “given for you” and “shed for you for the forgiveness of sin.”

*Who, then, receives this sacrament worthily?*

**Fasting and bodily preparation are in fact, a fine external discipline, but a person who has faith in these words, “given for you” and “shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,” is really worthy and well prepared. However, a person who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, because the words “for you” require truly believing hearts.**

## **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.*

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. We pray especially for those innocents in harm's way across the Middle East and for our women and men serving there in our stead. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we, too, dwell in your house forever. 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 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

No. 811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

### 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. 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.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

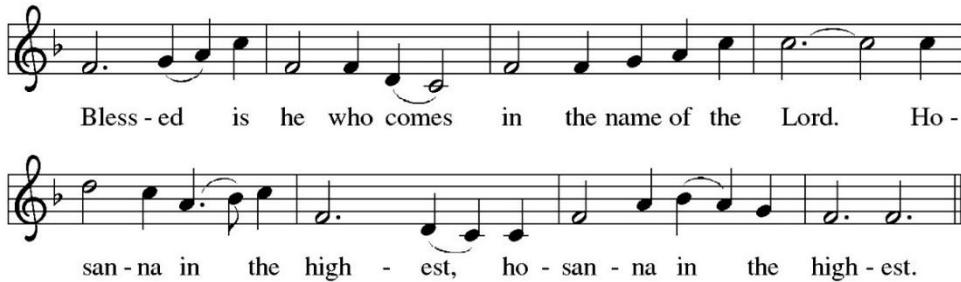
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,' and the second staff contains the melody for 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrasing slurs.



## Thanksgiving at the Table

In your servant, David, the least of his family,  
you saw a King who could shepherd your people.  
In your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,  
you gave us one whose light could open blinded eyes  
and guide us safely through death's dark valley.  
When he was crucified, was dead and buried,  
You raised him from the dead.  
Now he spreads a rich table before us,  
filling our cup, which brims with goodness and love  
that we may live forever close to you.

### *Words of Institution*

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,  
we give you thanks for having provided for us  
this Sacrament of the Altar  
that assures us of your forgiveness so that,  
as we eat the bread and drink the wine,  
you have blessed for our use,  
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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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:** “Be Thou My Vision”

**No. 793**

### **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 Judy Heinze  
**Lector:** Linda Dallape Matson

#### **At Moxham, Johnstown**

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

