

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



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

Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

Christ Lutheran 9:00 a.m. ☩ Moxham Lutheran 10:30 a.m.
April 5, 2026

Our Easter liturgy begins with the Liturgy of Light and the blessing of the Easter Candle, which symbolizes Christ's breaking of the darkness of sin and death to bring us all into the Easter victory. The Easter Candle will shine as our symbol of Christ's resurrection throughout the Sundays of the Easter season, and at all baptisms and funerals. As the candle is lifted three times, this greatest of all feast days is proclaimed with the ancient Easter shout proclaiming the victory of Christ for us all.

Gathering

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

Preservice Music

Welcome

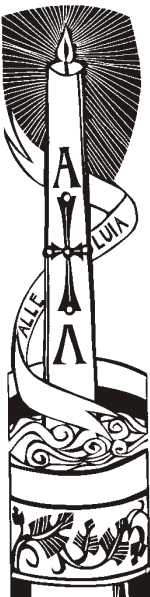
Prelude

Liturgy of the Light

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118:24



We pray. O God, you burn like a refiner's fire within us. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, we may be found ready to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending.

Amen.

The flame is brought to the Easter Candle

Jesus Christ, yesterday and today,
the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and Omega.

All time belongs to him, and all ages.

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

The Easter Candle is lit.

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad.

Let all creation, both seen and unseen, keep this glorious feast.

Thanks be to God.

The Candle is lifted three times as we shout:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Thanks be to God.

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

The light of Christ is with us!

Thanks be to God!

Easter Gathering Hymn “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

No. 365

Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Easter Kyrie

Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, you suffered under Pontius Pilate,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, you were crucified between two criminals,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, you died amidst ridicule and contempt,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, you were buried like all the dead,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, you rose again on the third day,

have mercy on us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Hymn of Praise “This Is the Feast”

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, 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.

Children's Time

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.

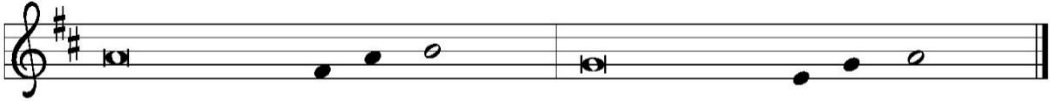
³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24



¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,**
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,**
and declare the works of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;**
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ "This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**
and you have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the Lord has this been done;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in

God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “This Joyful Eastertide”

No. 391

Nicene Creed

In the liberating hope of the resurrection,
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

**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.**

We sit to pray.

Intercessory Prayers

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life.

Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sovereign God,

We mourn the rush to war and all those who have lost their lives in these hostilities.

We yearn for peace and for creation's fulfillment of "a new heaven and a new earth" where death and pain "will be no more" (*Revelation 21:1, 4*).

We trust that, through your Spirit-led guidance, which sustains us, our weariness and fear will not overcome us, and that peace is sought by all leaders. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Song for Easter “We Know that Christ Is Raised”

No. 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

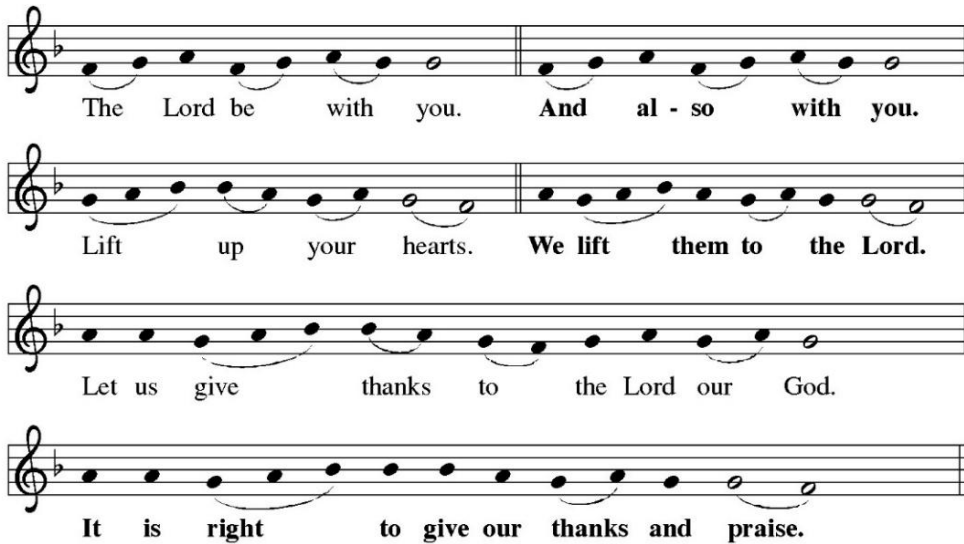


Hal - le - lu - jah!

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



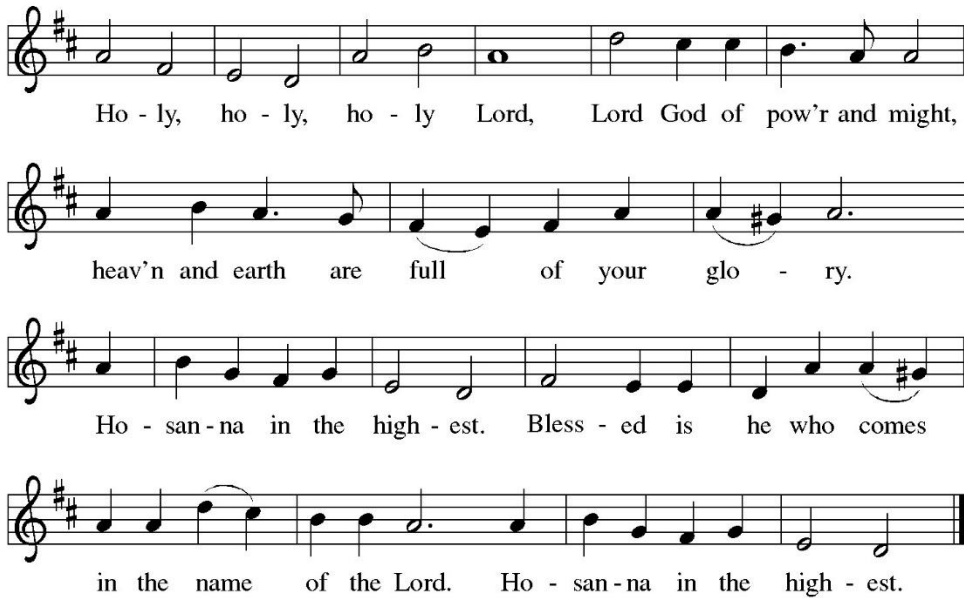
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

O God, You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful.
 You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
 We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

Words of Institution

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving passion and death,
 and his glorious resurrection,
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought but as we are able.
 We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
 so that we who share now in the body and blood of Christ
 may be filled with your blessing and grace.
 And, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
 we may be formed to live as your holy people
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

No. 389

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



**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 Shannon Miller
Lector: Barb Laslo

At Moxham, Johnstown

Organist: Sharon Berkebile
Lector: Kathie McCreary
Council Rep: Mark Koch
Communion Assistants: Dan Berkebile and Kim Williams
Greeter: Rick Kirk



ELCA

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In Matthew’s retelling of the resurrection, he describes a “violent earthquake” as the angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb where Jesus lay.

I imagine the earthquake, the rumble deep below the earth, as the ground shifted far under the surface. Perhaps those who were nearby felt the tremble. Maybe the women who were on their way to the tomb with prepared spices felt the earth shift. They were unsettled, but they knew something powerful was happening. We can understand that human experience of feeling out of control, of not being able to make sense of what’s happening around us.

Many of us can relate to this as we witness the current unrest in our world and in our communities. Like the women at the tomb, we feel isolated, disconnected. We’re unsettled, unsure, living the Lenten reality of waiting and hoping.

And then, in the midst of that shaking, comes the promise. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen.” God’s promise offers reassurance and hope.

The resurrection does not deny disruption — it meets us within disorder and disturbance. The stone is rolled away. Death does not have the final word. Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope, and to proclaim joy. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!