

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, often informally referred to as the LDS Church, is a Christian denomination with a global presence.

- **Origins:** Founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.
- **Key Figures:** Joseph Smith claimed to have received revelations from God, including the Book of Mormon, a sacred text alongside the Bible.
- **Migration and Establishment:** Following persecution and conflicts, members migrated west under the leadership of Brigham Young, settling in Utah and establishing Salt Lake City.
- **Membership:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has over 17 million members worldwide.

More info: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/?lang=eng>.

Core Beliefs:

- **Godhead:** Belief in a Godhead composed of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost as separate beings with distinct roles.
- **Resurrection and Eternal Life:** Belief in the resurrection of all mankind and the possibility of eternal life with God and one's family.
- **Prophets and Revelation:** Belief in continuing revelation through modern prophets and apostles.
- **Book of Mormon:** Belief that the Book of Mormon is a sacred text of scripture, alongside the Bible.

Practices and Rituals:

- **Sunday Services:** Weekly worship services include sermons, hymns, and lessons.
- **Sacraments:** The sacrament (communion) is partaken of weekly.
- **Fasting:** Regular periods of fasting are encouraged (usually a 24-hour fast each month).
- **Temple Work:** Temple attendance is considered a sacred duty for worthy members.

Places of Worship:

- **Wards and Stakes:** Local congregations are organized into wards and stakes (groups of wards).
- **Temples:** Temples are considered sacred houses of worship for special ordinances.

Leadership Structure:

- **First Presidency:** The First Presidency, consisting of the President of the Church and two counselors, leads the Church.
- **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** A council of twelve apostles who hold keys to the priesthood and are called to be special witnesses of the name of Jesus Christ in all the world.
- **Local Leadership:** Each ward and stake is led by local leaders called bishops and stake presidents.

Main Symbols:

- **Christus Statue:** The image of a Christ statue often accompanies the name of the Church.
- **Angel Moroni:** A statue of the angel Moroni is often placed atop Latter-day Saint temples.
- **Temple:** Temples are considered sacred places and are an important symbol of Latter-day Saint faith.

