

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST November 14, 2021

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr 717-532-4614 or 724-989-8106 or pastor@memluth.org Office hours are Monday and Wednesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday by appointment Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.

INTRODUCTION

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

GATHERING

In order to keep us all safe for the time being there will be no singing of the liturgy or the hymns because the spread of the virus is greatly increased by singing.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Blest Be the God of Israel"

- Burkhardt

Please kneel or sit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one whose love never ends.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth out of greed and apathy.
Rescue us from our sin, gracious God.
Hear us when we call out for help.
Lead us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. With happy hearts, receive the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "All My Hope on God Is Founded"

ELW 757

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, God alone, call my heart to be thine own.

Mortal pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust; what with care and toil we fashion, tow'r and temple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by hour, is my temple and my tow'r.

Great thy goodness, e'er enduring; deep thy wisdom, passing thought; splendor, light, and life attend thee, beauty springing out of naught. Evermore from thy store newborn worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done, high above all praises praising for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Glory to God"
READ TOGETHER Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

¹"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:11-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," 13 and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. The And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saving, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia. (Luke 23:36)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." ³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴"Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ¬When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁶For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

ELW 327

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

Through the night of doubt and sorrow, onward goes the pilgrim band, singing songs of expectation, marching to the promised land. Clear before us through the darkness gleams and burns the guiding light; pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence on the ransomed people shed, chasing far the gloom and terror, bright'ning all the path we tread. One the object of our journey, one the faith which never tires, one the earnest looking forward, one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain that lips of thousands lift as from the heart of one; one the conflict, one the peril, one the march in God begun. One the gladness of rejoicing on the far eternal shore, where the one almighty Father reigns in love forevermore.

Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers; onward, with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its battle till we rest beneath its shade. Soon shall come the great awak'ning; soon the rending of the tomb! Then the scatt'ring of all shadows, and the end of toil and gloom.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

creator of neaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters (*recent natural disasters may be named*). Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved (especially). Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Everyone is to remain in their pew for the passing of the peace. To share the peace with someone sitting near you, share a slight bow, wave, or cross your arms with hands touching the opposite arm, a gesture of embrace.)

Please be seated

OFFERTORY

The Ushers will collect the offering

OFFERTORY DUET

Brenda Mason, Norma Bricker Organist, Brad Drake

"The Majesty and Glory of Your Name"

- T. Fettke/L. Johnson

Please stand

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Read Together

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(1 Corinthians 11:23b-25)

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

Please stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, + bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Give to our God Immortal Praise!"

ELW 848

The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.

Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

God sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown. His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

Please be seated

POSTLUDE "Prelude in g minor"

- Bach

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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Peg Commerer
Dorothy Coy
Charles Fleming
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Evelyn Fuller
Delores Henry

June Hile Bernita Killian Jeanne Naugle William Porter Dorothy Railing Betty Reilly All Caregivers



Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr

Organist Nancy Fogelsanger

Choir Director Blaine Shover

Bell Choir Director Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator Amy Piper

> Youth Director Stacy McCole

Preschool Director Shirley Perry