SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 25, 2025

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
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717-532-4614

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

Reverend Godfred Effisah
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION
Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"* *- Callahan*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

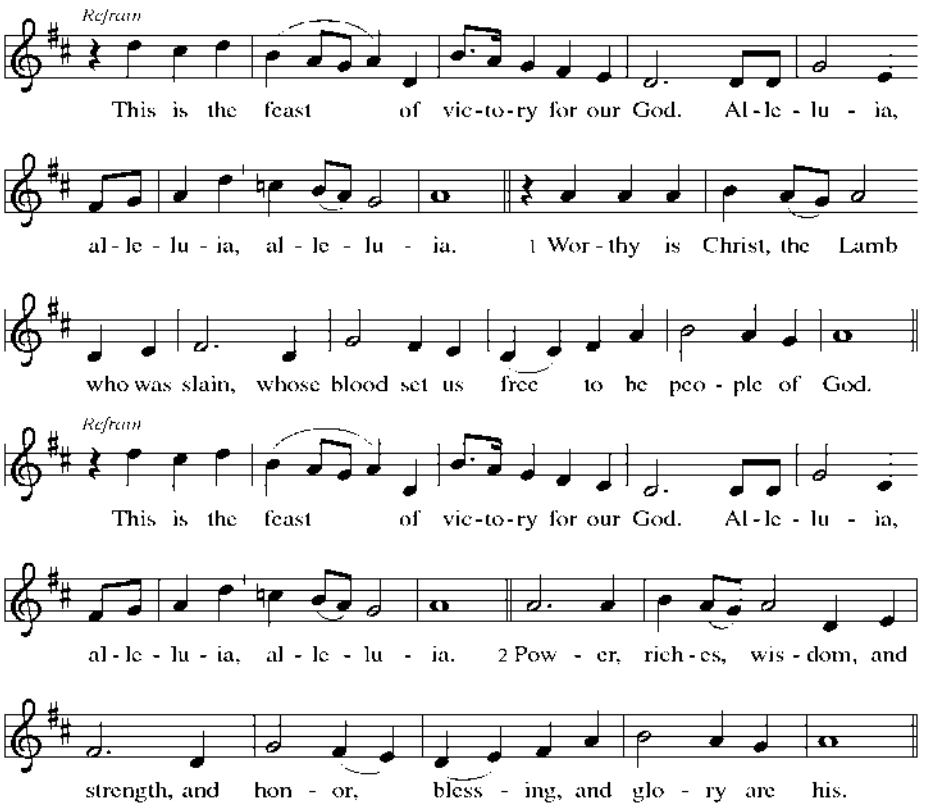
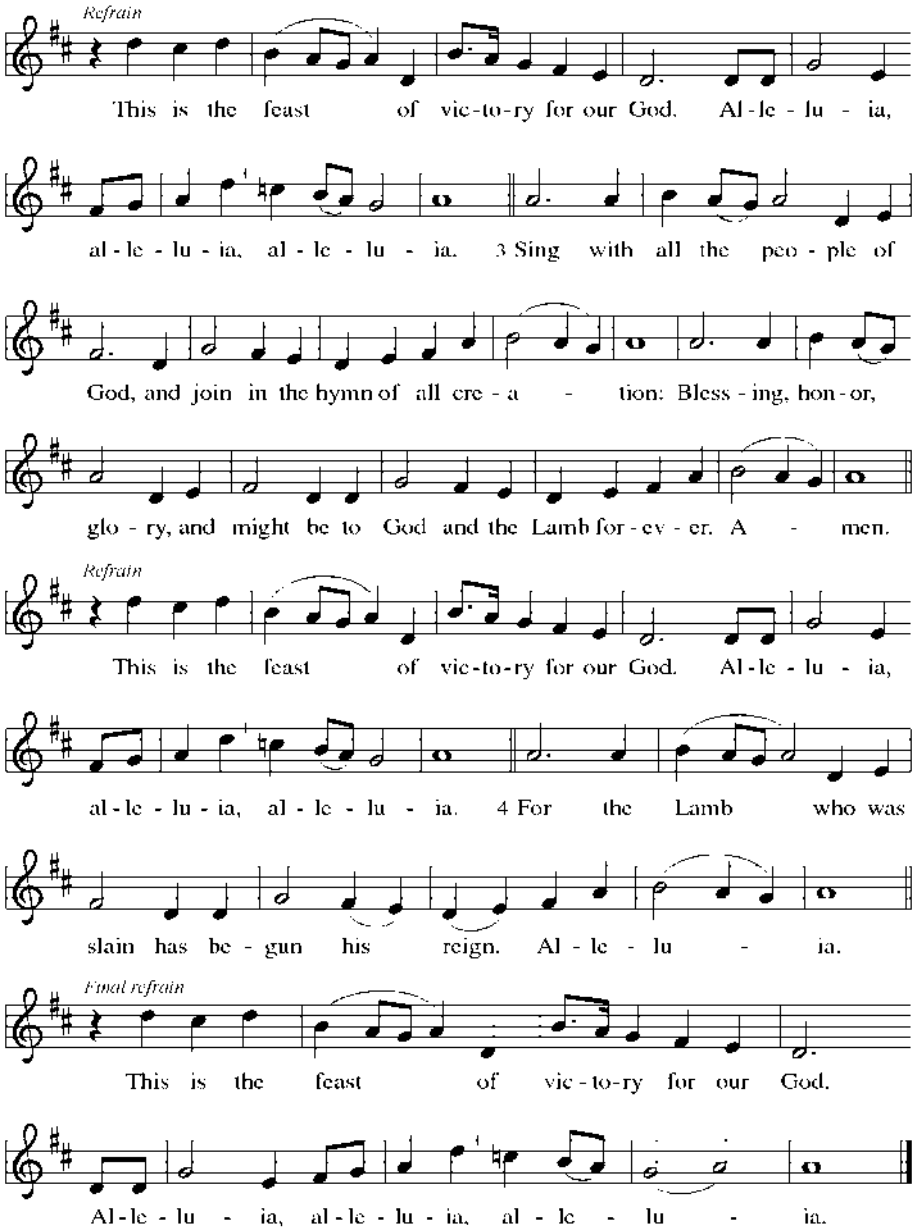
Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"Come, We That Love the Lord"* **ELW 625**

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.

KYRIE **READ RESPONSIVELY**
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen, amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast"*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING **Acts 16:9-15**

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia
pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to
Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the
good news to them. 11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight
course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there
to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13 On the sabbath
day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there
was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who
had gathered there. 14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of
God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer
in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was
said by Paul. 15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged
us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and
stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN *"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"* **ELW 890**

Please be seated.

SECOND READING **Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

10 And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high
mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of
heaven from God. 22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the
Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of
sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp
is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the

earth will bring their glory into it. [25] Its gates will never be shut by day—
and there will be no night there. [26] People will bring into it the glory and
the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone
who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written
in the Lamb's book of life. [22:1] Then the angel showed me the river of
the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of
the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of
the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit
each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the
nations. [3] Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the
throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will
worship him; [4] they will see his face, and his name will be on their
foreheads. [5] And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp
or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever
and ever.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia.* Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. *Alleluia. *(John 14:23)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **John 14:23-29**
As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

[23] Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep
my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and
make our home with them. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep
my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the
Father who sent me. [25] "I have said these things to you while I am still
with you. [26] But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will
send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I
have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do
not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid. [28] You heard me say to you, 'I am going
away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that
I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. [29] And
now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur,
you may believe."

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"* **ELW 888**

NICENE CREED
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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Risen Lord, ignite in our hearts a passion for prayer. Make our hearts yearn for your presence, helping us to seek you with all our being. In this Year of Prayer, teach us to pray with deep conviction, and never for shallow wishes, beliefs, or with a fleeting faith in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Risen Lord, we pray for all who are preparing to attend the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly next month. Reveal to them the ways in which you are calling us as a synod to be your hands and feet in this world, so that they can discern who our next leader should be. Help them to trust in your guidance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ (*especially*). Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **ELW 884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray together.
Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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 - EASTER
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:

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
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

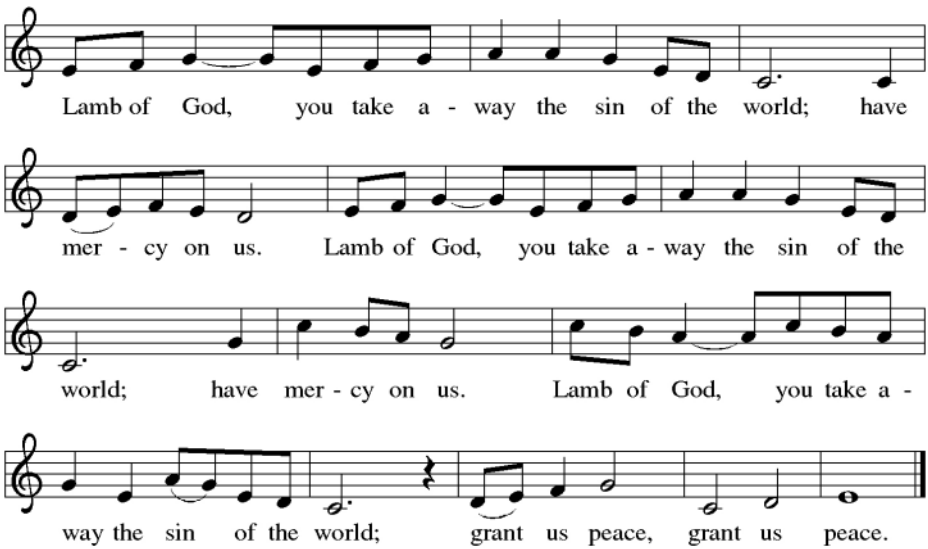
All glory and honor is yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD **page 191**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *"As the Wheat"*

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together.
Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

SENDING

BLESSING
The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* **ELW 815**

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!

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE *"Cortege"* *- Young*

Pray for the Homebound

Evelyn Fuller
Bernita Killian
Karen Larson
Doug & Pat Maun
Jeanne Naugle
Dorothy Railing
Trina Ruth
All Caregivers

Church Staff

Pastor
Pastor Godfred Effisah

Organist & Pianist
Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir / Bell Choir Director
Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator
Amy Piper

Preschool Director
Shirley Perry

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