

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**August 10, 2025**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**34 E. Orange Street**  
**Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993**  
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**717-532-4614**

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

**Reverend Godfred Effisah**  
**717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)**  
**[pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)**  
**Pastor's office hours: Monday to Thursday: 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**

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

**ORGAN AND PIANO DUET PRELUDE** *“Moment by Moment”*  
- Lani Smith

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*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.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.**

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall

be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM                  Psalm 33:12-22                  READ RESPONSIVELY**

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

<sup>13</sup> **The LORD looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup> **God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup> **The horse gives vain hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> **to deliver their lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,  
our helper and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

**SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God’s promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were

heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." <sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia. Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matt. 24:42, 44)***

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 12th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 12:32-40**

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and

he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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 Master, Let Me Walk with You” **ELW 818**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven 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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, in the midst of our suffering and pain, we find hope in your love and mercy. Be a healer for cancer patients, restoring their health and bringing them comfort. Help them regain strength and return to renewed health as they persevere in their challenges. Surround them with peace during treatment and touch the hearts of family members to provide an atmosphere of faith, hope, and love. Provide researchers with insight into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need (*especially*). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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.

**Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 FOR SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC 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.

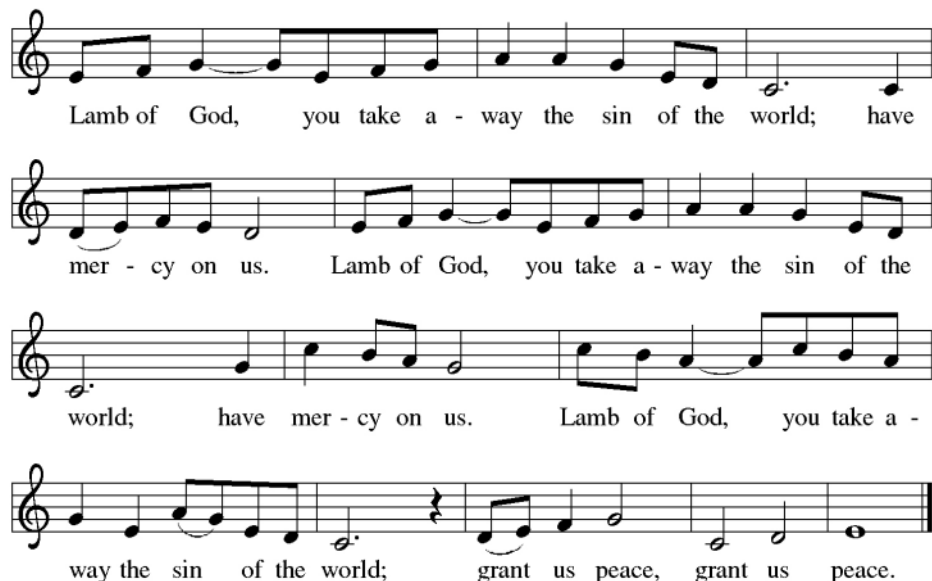
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*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 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.

**Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

**ELW 632**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**POSTLUDE** *"Prelude in D-minor"*

*- Bach*

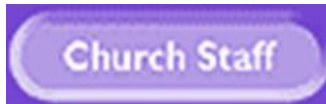
## **Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258 Sunday, August 10, 2025**

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

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



**Pastor  
Pastor Godfred Effisah  
  
Organist & Pianist  
Nancy Fogelsanger  
  
Senior Choir / Bell Choir  
Director  
Kathy Kerr  
  
Parish Coordinator  
Amy Piper**