



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family and Friends
December 7, 2025

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
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Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
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Pastor's office hours: Monday, Wed., & Thurs.: 9:00 am - 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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Once He Came in Blessing”

- Burkhardt

CONFESION 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

We invite the family lighting our Advent Wreath to come forward.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING HYMN: Advent 2

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257 vs. 2

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things
far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Please remain standing or stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” ELW 251

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and
peace; 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

1 Samuel 1:1-8

¹There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ²He had two wives; the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³Now this man

used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord.⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, ⁵ but to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶ Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

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

PSALM Psalm 126

READ RESPONSIVELY

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with
shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord
has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the
salvation of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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 "Unexpected and Mysterious"

ELW 258

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting
your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

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.

O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger, look with compassion on those without a place to live. Comfort the homeless as they walk their difficult paths, and give us a kind heart to help the homeless in their need as we unite our voices in a call for justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today*). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” - Arrg. Martha Lynn Thompson

6 BELL RINGERS

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.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

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 - ADVENT

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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;

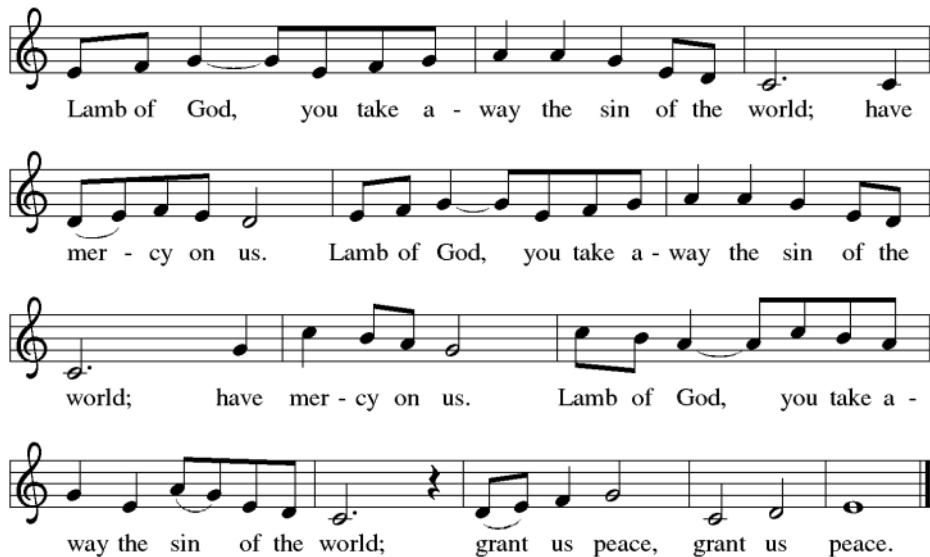
and lead us not into temptation,

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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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.

**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and
bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.**

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING OF HEAD START JACKETS

BLESSING

May the God who begins all holy endings stir in you the grace to release what no longer gives life. May Christ, whose coming is near, bring to completion the work of love that has already begun in you. And may the + Holy Spirit keep watch with you in the quiet places, so that all in you that is not yet Christ may gently fall away.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN “*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*”

ELW 326

CHORAL BENEDICTION “*God Be With You*”

Senior Choir

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE “*Prepare the Way*”

- Lau

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397 - Sunday, December 7, 2025

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

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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