



**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
December 24, 2025 ~ 7:30 PM  
Music Prelude begins at 7:15 PM

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993  
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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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***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 we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for worshiping with us on this most holy and joyful night. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

*"Still, Still, Still"*

- Lau

*"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

- Behnke

*"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"*

- Lau

*"Fum, Fum, Fum"*

- Lind

*"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

- Behnke

### **PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

**Mary Beth Fishel**

*Please stand*

### **GATHERING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**ELW 283**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
**Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall

be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *“Holy Night, Holy Child”*

**Bell Choir**

## **SECOND READING**

**Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior’s final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.*** I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ***Alleluia.*** (Luke 2:10-11)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

*God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to

deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

**ELW 270**

### **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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

### *A brief silence.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word that teaches us what is right and wrong. Help us by your grace to treasure it in our hearts, meditate upon it daily and share it with others especially during our year of the Bible. May your holy word settle in our hearts, families and be at the center of our congregational life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty and ever-loving God, to you, no one is a stranger, and from your help, no one is ever distant. Look with compassion on those without a place to live. Restore our homeless siblings, we pray, to a home of their own, and give us a kind heart to help the homeless in their need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Good news of great joy, light and life, grace and peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERTORY** *"How Far is it to Bethlehem"*

**Senior Choir**

*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.

**God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through 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.**

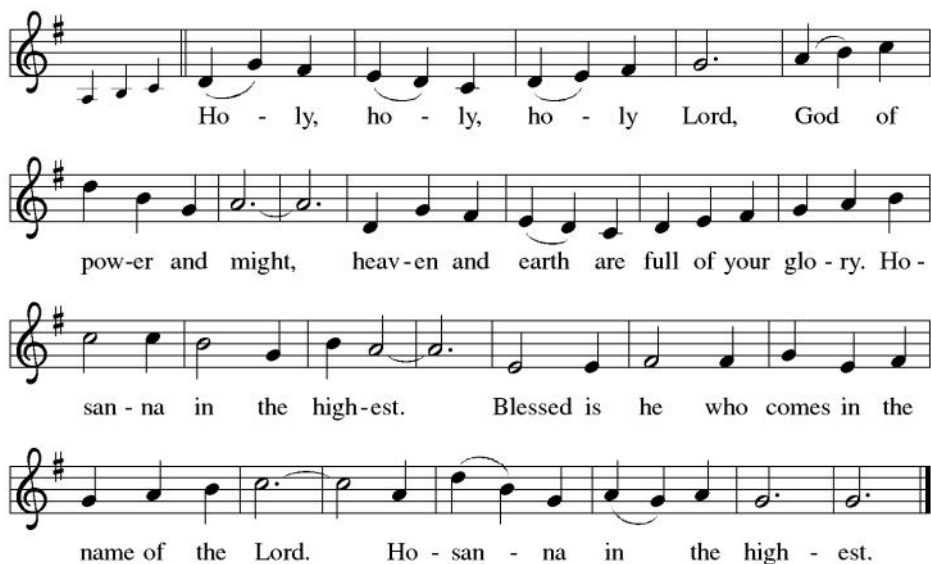
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## CHRISTMAS 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things.

Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your word, and your light shines in our darkness glory to you O God.

**Glorify to you, O God.**



The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands. The hills ring out with gladness and the trees are shouting their joy. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you O God.**

Your son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he! We praise your majesty lying in a Manger. Jesus Christ born of Mary and lauded by angels. Glory to you O God. **Glory to you or God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On 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.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ. With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son and make known to the whole earth your steadfast love. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands. In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life- given spirits. Glory to you, O God. **Glory to you, O God.**

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the host of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son + Holy Spirit. God most high, Light of the world and judge of the universe today and forever. Amen. **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, 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

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*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.*

*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.

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*The ushers will light the candles at the end of each pew. Please tip only unlighted candles toward the flame and pass the light down the pews. As the candles are lighted we will listen to a reading from John 1:1-14. When all the candles are lighted we will sing the hymn.*

**HYMN** *“Silent Night, Holy Night!”*

**ELW 281**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *“Joy to the World”*

**ELW 267**

### DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God’s people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**POSTLUDE** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

*- Behnke*

***Join us tomorrow,  
Thursday, December 25th for our  
Christmas Day Worship Service  
at 10:00 am.***



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**Mary Kay Dagenhart**

**Karen Larson**

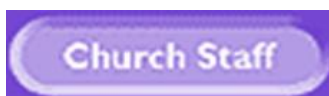
**Doug & Pat Maun**

**Jeanne Naugle**

**Dorothy Railing**

**Trina Ruth**

**All Caregivers**



**Pastor**

**Pastor Godfred Effisah**

**Organist & Pianist**

**Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Senior Choir and Bell Choir Director**

**Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator**

**Amy Piper**