

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM

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
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
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pastor@memluth.org

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 morning. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"Jesus Christ Is Born Today!"*

- Martin

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.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN “*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*” **ELW 275**

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.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 98:1-6

- ¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.
- ²**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**
- ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house
of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**
- ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

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.**

The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, bringing life, love, and joy to a weary world. Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens proclaim your glory and announce that we have been made your own people. Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

From the nurturing darkness of the womb to the tender night of the tomb, you enfold us in your love. We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace (*especially*). 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.

PIANO DUET OFFERTORY "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"
Norma Bricker, Kathy Kerr

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.

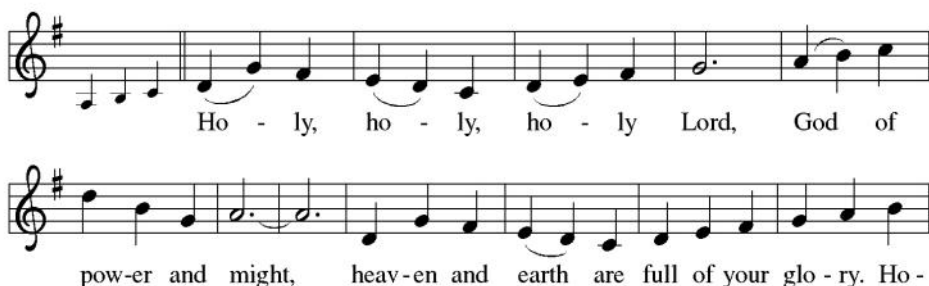
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

CHRISTMAS PREFACE

All glory and honor be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who, for love of our fallen race, humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore, with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise.

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.

Glory 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.

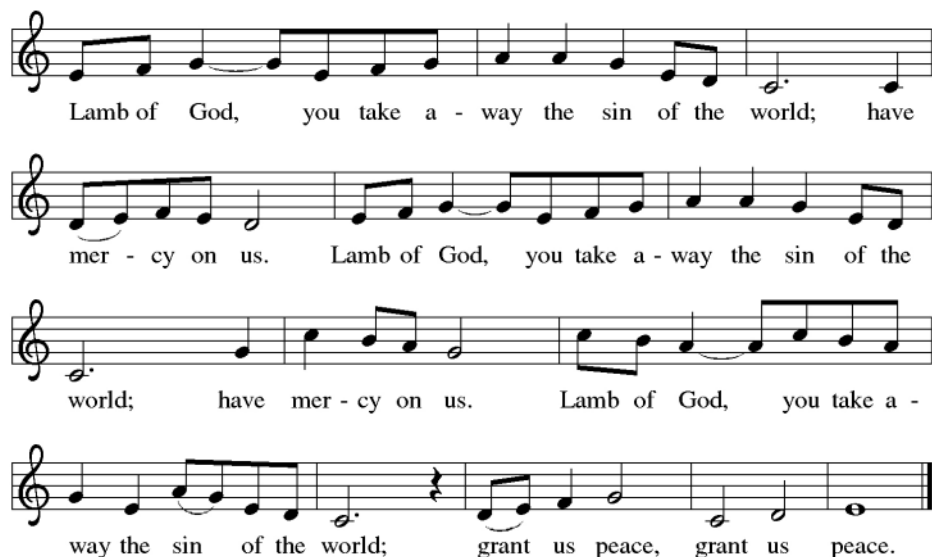
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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

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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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

ELW 270

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 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

- Burkhardt



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Mary Kay Dagenhart

Karen Larson

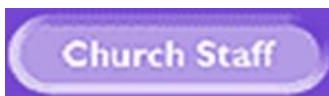
Doug & Pat Maun

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