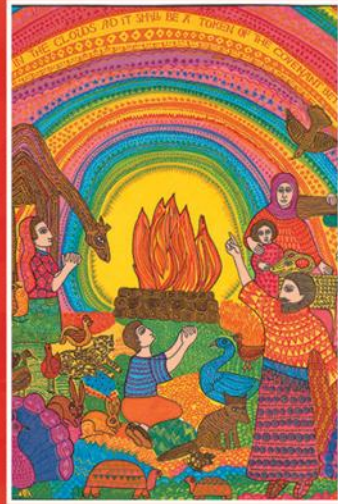


I am
establishing
my covenant
with you

GENESIS 9:9



THE EASTER VIGIL
of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection
April 4, 2026 ~ 7:30 PM

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

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

**Reverend Godfred Effisah
Reverend Matthew Best**

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!

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

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Memorial on this Most Holy Night. The Vigil of Easter is celebrated this evening, concluding the sacred Triduum. What began on Holy Thursday and continued through Good Friday now culminates in the initial celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, from the dead. This celebration will continue tomorrow morning and throughout the Easter season. The Vigil of Easter comprises four main services, namely: The Service of Light, The Service of the Word, The Service of Holy Baptism, and the Eucharistic Service.

In the ancient church, the Easter Vigil was the most important service of the Church Year. Christians would gather after sunset on Holy Saturday and hold a vigil (“keep watch”) throughout the night, praying, listening to readings from Holy Scripture, and singing psalms and hymns to climax the celebration of Christ’s resurrection at dawn. Our Service tonight is structured upon the themes of that ancient Service.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

We gather in the parking lot to begin our Easter Vigil service. The service begins with the service of light which is the breaking of the darkness in our world as a reminder to the people of God to have their lamps burning ready and waiting their Lord’s return. Thus the Lord will find his followers awake and ready to be seated at his table. On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer.

For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ’s death and resurrection, share Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and await Christ’s coming again in glory.

PRAYER OVER THE FIRE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Gracious God and source of our hope, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, our Lord and Savior, who is the light to our darkened world. We pray that you make this new fire + holy to illumine us with new hope. Renew our faith by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of the eternal light. We make our prayer through Christ our savior and Lord.

Amen.

The inscription on the Paschal Candle is traced by the Presiding Minister, while saying:

Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

The Presiding Minister places five nails, representing the five wounds of Christ, into the Paschal Candle, while saying:

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE

The Paschal candle is lit from the blessed fire.

Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The gathered will now enter the church. When inside you will light your candle from the Paschal candle. (Please slide the cup down and tilt unlit candle. Once lit, slide the cup up to fully enclose the flame.)

SOLEMN PROCESSION

Through our solemn procession to the sanctuary, we will follow the tradition of "Lumen Christi" to recognize the Light of Christ. We will stop on our way to the sanctuary to chant "The Light of Christ." As the gathered enter the nave they may enter the pews and remain standing as you are able.

The first will occur in the upper narthex.

The Light of Christ (*chanted as the Paschal candle is raised*)
Thanks be to God. (chant)

The second will occur in the middle of the nave.

The Light of Christ (*chanted as the Paschal candle is raised*)
Thanks be to God. (chant)

The third will occur in the sanctuary before the Paschal candle is placed on its stand.

The Light of Christ (*chanted as the Paschal candle is raised*)
Thanks be to God. (chant)

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

The Easter proclamation will be sung by the Cantor after the Paschal candle has been placed in its stand.

CANTOR

Anne Crawford

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

CANTOR

Anne Crawford

Let us pray. O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Let us praise the Lord who has triumphed gloriously, our hope and our salvation. **Amen.**

Following the Easter proclamation, please extinguish your candles and sit for the readings and responses.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1, 26-31

Jeff Cox

God Creates the Heavens and the Earth

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

READ RESPONSIVELY

God's Work in Creation and in History

- ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ³O give thanks to the LORD of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁴who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁵who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁶who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁷who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁸the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²⁴and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²⁵who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²⁶O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER

Please be seated.

SECOND READING: Genesis 22:1-18

Susan Lyons

God Puts Abraham to the Test

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: Psalm 16:5, 8-11

READ RESPONSIVELY

The Lord Shows Us the Path of Life.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁸ **I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ **For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹ You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of
joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER

Please be seated.

THIRD READING: Exodus 14:15 --15:1

Mary Beth Fishel

The Israelites Pass Through the Red Sea

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

READ RESPONSIVELY

The Song of Praise that the Israelites Sang after Crossing the Red Sea

¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing
to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has
thrown into the sea.

² **The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my
salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God,
and I will exalt him.**

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ **Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.**

⁵ The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ **Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.**

¹⁷ You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

¹⁸ **The LORD will reign forever and ever.”**

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER

Please be seated.

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 55:1-11

Jeff Cox

A Call to Return to the Lord Who Is Merciful

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

WOV 713

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER

Please be seated.

FIFTH READING: Ezekiel 36:24-28

Susan Lyons

The Lord will Cleanse Israel for the Sake of His Holy Name

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

WOV 721
(verses 2 & 4)

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*

*“I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”*

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11 **Mary Beth Fishel**
Those Who Have Been Baptized have Died with Christ

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

RESPONSE “*Baptized in Water*”

WOV 693

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER

Please be seated.

THE FEAST OF VICTORY

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20th chapter.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18



The Gospel of the Risen Christ.



We will now be seated for a brief time of individual reflection before continuing with the service.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal candidate and sponsor, assemble at the Baptismal font with the ministers and the Paschal Candle.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsor for the candidate, in turn, presents the candidate with these words:

I present *Brian Jason Wyrick* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Brian, do you desire to be baptized?

I do.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

I do.

Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Sponsor, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsor: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Brian and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. At this font, Holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water.

The minister divides the water in the form of a cross.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is lowered in the baptismal water as a sign of Christ's burial and rising, as the minister says:

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. **Amen.**

The minister addresses the baptismal group.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Brian, I baptize you in the name of the Father.

The minister pours water on the candidate's head.

and of the Son,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.

and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The one who has been baptized then kneels. The minister lays both hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your son from the power of sin and for raising him up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Brian: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Brian, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

After receiving the sign of the cross, the baptized stand. A lighted candle may be given to the baptized.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and Spirit you have made Brian your own. You forgave him all his sins and brought him to newness of life. Continue to strengthen him with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

All that have gathered at the font, turn and face the congregation.

Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers within us in the kingdom of God.

After receiving his gifts, the new member returns to his place.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Please stand as you are able.

Sisters and brothers, on this most holy night, the Church keeps vigil, awaiting the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul teaches us that by baptism, we were buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life. Therefore, now that the struggle of Lent is over, let us renew the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?

I do.

Do you intend to continue steadfast in the confession of faith which you made with the Apostles’ Creed and to suffer all, rather than deny Christ?

I do so intend, with the help of God.

Do you intend to continually conform your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of Word and Sacrament, and in faith, word and action to remain true to the Triune God?

I do so intend, with the help of God.

People of God, you had made your profession of faith and renewed the vows of your baptism. By water, you were cleansed and brought to newness of life in the Spirit. May God grant that, as this water of remembrance touches you this night, you may feel and know the grace and favor which God has given you through your baptism.

Amen.

The people are sprinkled with the Baptismal Water as a remembrance of their own baptism. It is appropriate to make the sign of the cross when sprinkled, just as the sign was made upon us at baptism. We proudly bear the sign that makes us Christian—the cross of Christ.

Please be seated as Jess and Hope return the Alleluia banner.

THE ALTAR REDRESSED

The altar that was stripped on Maundy Thursday to symbolize the action of Jesus' captors, who stripped him of his garments and left him naked to their insults. The altar is now redressed.

SERVICE OF THE EUCHARIST

Christ's presence once again fills the sanctuary as the risen Lord has conquered the darkness of our world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, 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 VIGIL

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all time times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through 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.

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.

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



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

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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. Communion elements will be distributed by intinction. 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 stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. In the name of the Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and remain with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Please be seated

POSTLUDE *“This Joyful Eastertide”*

- Bender

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Like the children of Israel who watched and waited through the night for the Lord of the Exodus, we too come together this night to watch and wait for the Lord of the Resurrection. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church’s year. We come, as Christians have come since the first century, to keep vigil and prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Bridegroom who is the chief host and guest at the Easter feast to come. We gather around a pillar of fire, to hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome each other at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The flame of the paschal candle symbolizes Christ’s illuminating light, and his presence in the midst of his people. The paschal candle is sometimes referred to as the “Easter Candle” or the “Christ Candle.” The term “paschal” comes from the word pesach, which in Hebrew means Passover. The tall white candle in many ways signifies the Divine pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that led the Israelites in their exodus from slavery in Egypt. A Paschal Candle is blessed and lit every year at Easter, and used throughout this season and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 - Saturday, April 4, 2026 Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

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