



**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 11, 2026**

**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
is on vacation through October 22, 2026.**

*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

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GATHERING

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *"Surely The Presence of the Lord"* **Senior Choir**

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All 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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.**
Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Please remain standing or stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"* **ELW 553**

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.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

PSALM Psalm 23 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall
fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad
and rejoice in God's salvation. **Alleluia.** (Isa. 25:9)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are
available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his
son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the
wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves,
saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my
dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and
everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light
of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the
rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was
enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned
their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those
invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite
everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into
the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the
wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to see
the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding
robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants,
'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but
few are chosen."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Susan Lyons

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Now We Join in Celebration"

ELW 462

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

BELL CHOIR OFFERTORY "As the Deer"

arrg. Susan Greschke

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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of the called and sent, revive deeply in us the desire to follow you closely as your disciples. Help us, we pray, to drop our nets and abide with you. Touch our hearts, enlighten our minds, and stir our spirit to share the fruits of our faith with all people. Give us the strength to carry our cross and walk humbly in Your grace. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the harvest, with a heart full of gratitude, we pray for our farmers and farm workers during this harvest season. When they feel tired or overwhelmed, remind them that you are the source of strength and provision. Fill their minds with peace through the unknowns of weather and markets. God, we thank you for the land we steward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"*

ELW 873

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Kay Dagenhart

Doug & Pat Maun

Jeanne Naugle

Dorothy Railing

Trina Ruth

Wayne Widney

All Caregivers

STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Godfred Effisah

Organist & Pianist

Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir / Bell Choir

Director

Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator

Amy Piper

Preschool Director/Head Teacher

Emily Crider

Check out our church website using this QR Code!

