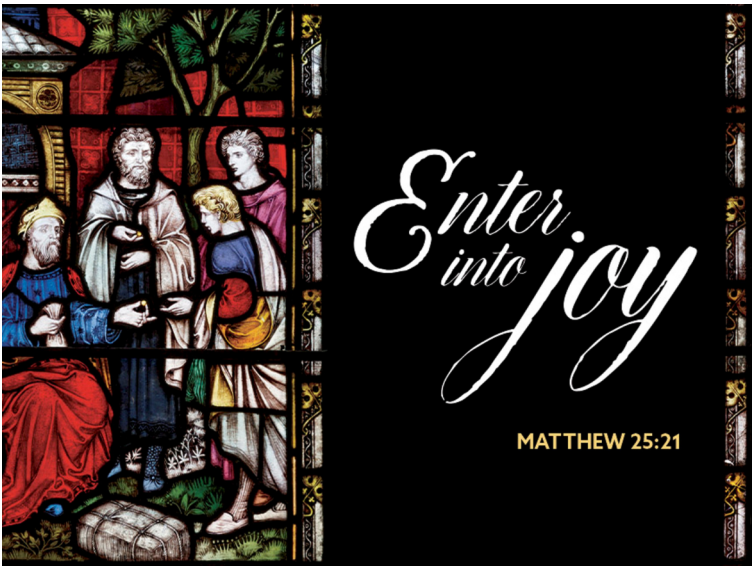


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 15, 2026

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
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Pastor's Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 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

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION
Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* *- Lau*

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.**
Amen.

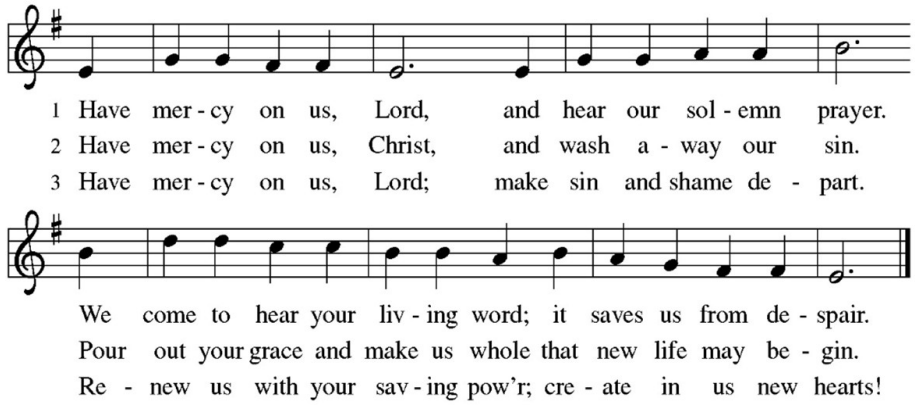
Inherit the riches of God's grace. + Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

Please remain standing or stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"We Praise You, O God"* **ELW 870**

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.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**
Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The
LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that
time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not
do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their
houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The
great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the
day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be
a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick
darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the
LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of
the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of
the earth.

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

PSALM Psalm 90:1-12 READ RESPONSIVELY

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
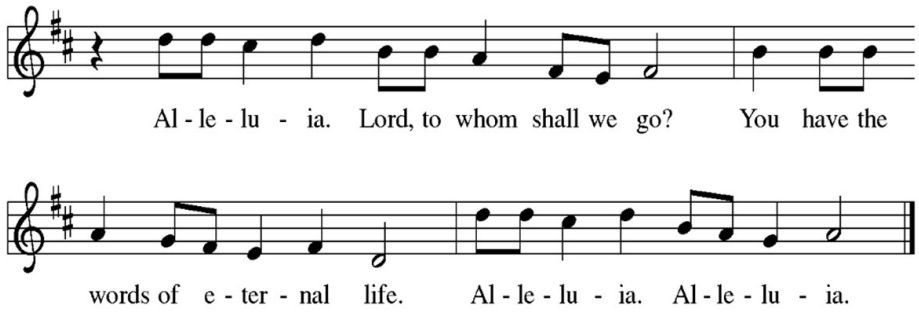
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do
not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they
say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come
upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will
be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let
us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he
gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the
same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But
the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the
ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five
more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge
of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the
two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me
two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came
forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping
where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what
is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew,

did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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 *"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"* **ELW 707**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope and mercy, you are our refuge and our strength, our sure rock in the midst of any storm. Be with all victims of natural disasters and those responding with assistance and aid. Protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering, and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Help all people of goodwill to respond with compassion and generous hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for all who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
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.

SENIOR CHOIR OFFERTORY *"For the Blessings of the Field"*
- Robert Wetzler

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.
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 FOR SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

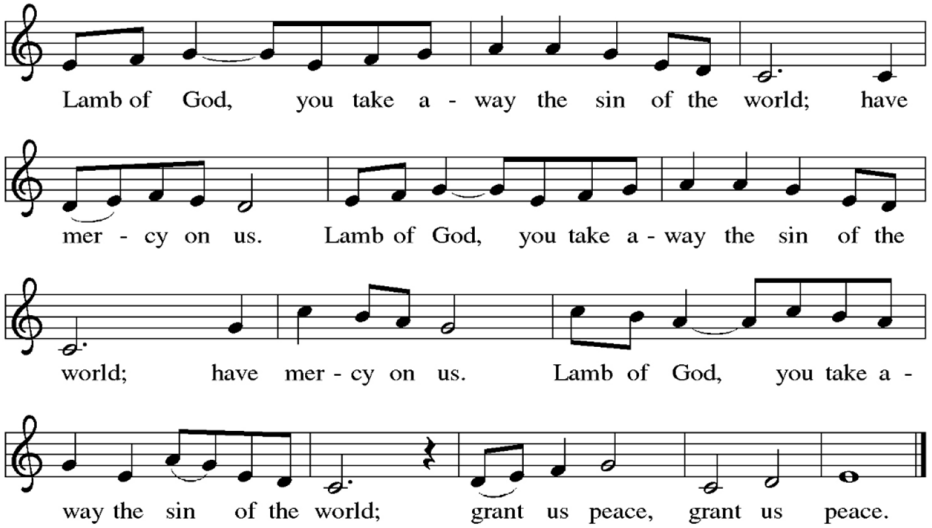
Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless
us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All glory and honor is yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, 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**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please be seated.

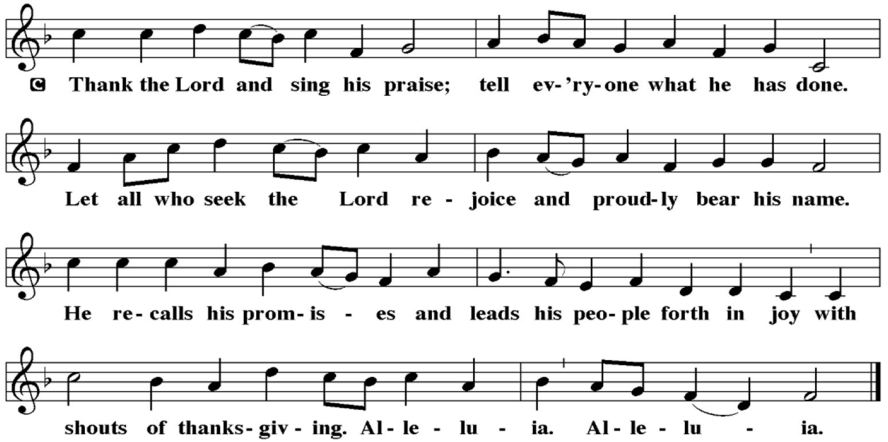
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION
All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received 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.

COMMUNION HYMN *"As the Grains of Wheat"* **Senior Choir**

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.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together.
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

NOISY OFFERING **Outreach Ministry Committee**

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 *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* **ELW 632**

POSTLUDE *"Recessional on St. Anne"* *- Young*

Remain seated for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Meeting will close with praying The Lord's Prayer.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Kay Dagenhart
Doug & Pat Maun
Jeanne Naugle
Ed Pearson
Dorothy Railing
Trina Ruth
Wayne Widney
All Caregivers

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. 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!

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