

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
November 25, 2026 ~ 7:00 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
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
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 you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION
At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"Praise and Thanksgiving"* **ELW 689**

INVOCATION
Sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts, always thanking God.
In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES **Psalm 104:24, 27, 28, 30-31**
O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom, you have made them all; **The earth is full of your creatures.**

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; **When you open your hands, they are filled with good things.**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. **May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, a day we set aside as a nation to give thanks to our God, who graciously gives us all things. In one of Paul's letters to Timothy, he urges that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people." For each one of us, there are people we struggle to be thankful for. **We confess our struggles and our sins to God, seeking His forgiveness through Jesus Christ.**

Silence for personal confession and prayers.

God created this world and everything in it, including all of the people who live in it. According to God's gracious will, He "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Here's the truth: God loves the people of this world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. By the command of Christ and through the power of the cross, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together.
Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING **Deuteronomy 8:7-18**
Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.

7 "The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing
streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and
hills, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and
pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, 9 a land where you may eat
bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones
are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your
fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.
11 "Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep
his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am
commanding you today. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built
fine houses and live in them 13 and when your herds and flocks have
multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is
multiplied, 14 then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who
brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who
led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with
poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint
rock. 16 He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did
not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good.
17 Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have
gotten me this wealth.' 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he
who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant
that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today."

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

PSALM **Psalm 65** **READ RESPONSIVELY**

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
2 **To you, the one who answers prayer,**
to you all flesh shall come.
3 Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
4 **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
6 **You make firm the mountains by your power;**
you are girded about with might.
7 You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
8 **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;**
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
10 **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;**
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
11 You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
12 **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,**
and the hills be clothed with joy.
13 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need. Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found. We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you
must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide
you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough
of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is
written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness
endures forever." 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of
your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great
generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, 12 for the
rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also
overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this
ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the
gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and
with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the
surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for
his indescribable gift!

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia. **God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in ev'ry good work.** ***Alleluia.*** *(2 Cor. 9:8)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 17th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **Luke 17:11-19**

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between
Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin
disease approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out,
saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said
to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they
were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed,
turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at
Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus
asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? 18 Did
none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he
said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Now Thank We All Our God"* **ELW 840**

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.

We give thanks for the communion of the church. Infuse a spirit of generosity in your people. Bless relationships among differing religions and faiths (*local partnerships may be named*) as signs of unity and hope. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for abundant harvests and the many gifts of your good creation. Make us faithful caretakers of land, water, soil, and air, that all life might flourish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for local and global peace efforts. Uplift the voices of Native communities and theologians, and further the work of truth-telling and reparations in solidarity with our Indigenous siblings. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your tender care. Accompany all who travel; comfort all for whom this is a lonely season, and assure all weary hearts and bodies of your healing love (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for ministries working to end food and housing insecurity (*specific local ministries may be named*). Open our hearts to your abundance and our minds to new ways of sharing that abundance for the good of all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the witness of all the faithful departed. Empower us, by their example, to serve you with courage, hope, and joy in the promises of the gospel. 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.

OFFERTORY *"Let All Things Now Living"* **Senior Choir**

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

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 THANKSGIVING
Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give You thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We acknowledge you as the Lord of all nations, the Creator of land, sea, sky, the source of the wonders of nature, and salvation. Through your Word you called all things into being, that you might bestow on us your love reflected in the vastness of the universe and the bounty of this earth. You placed creation in our care, yet You alone sustain all life with the gentle dew of Your Word and the life-giving breath of the Spirit. Your gifts of nature have not exhausted Your goodness, for the fullness of Your love is revealed in the sending of Your Son and the imparting of the Spirit. Our hearts are moved to thankful praise, and so we join the choirs of angels and saints of all time and places in proclaiming Your glory as we say:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
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.

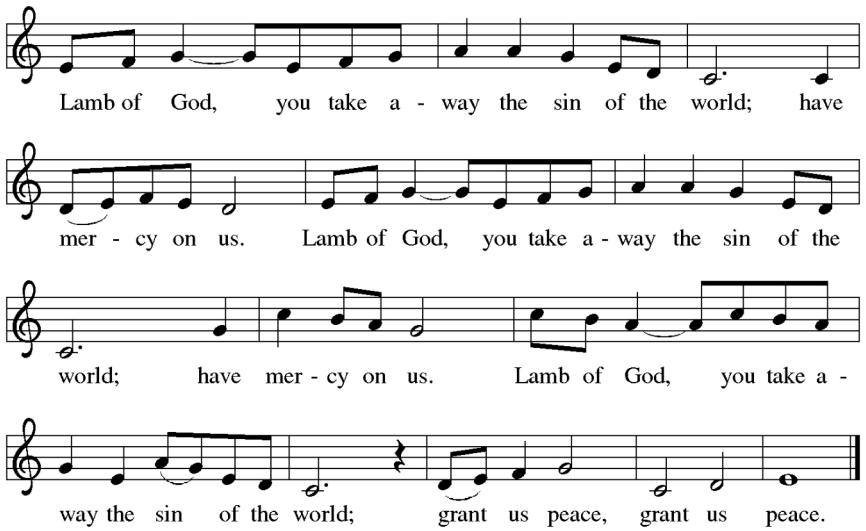
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remem-brance of me.

Remembering then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who say this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith and truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your son Jesus Christ; Through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty father, was the Holy Spirit, in your holy church both 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.

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.
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.

BENEDICTION
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. Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"* **ELW 873**

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

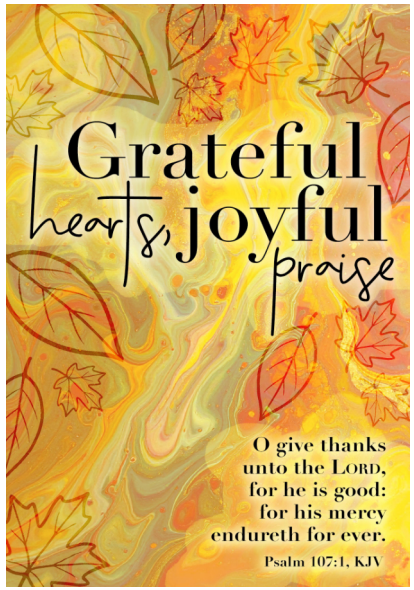
Please be seated.

POSTLUDE *"Now Thank We All Our God"* *- Held*

"A Prayer for Thanksgiving"

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this
day for giving thanks, mindful of
your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the
abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a
reminder to be generous with others,
as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.

William H. Sadlier



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

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