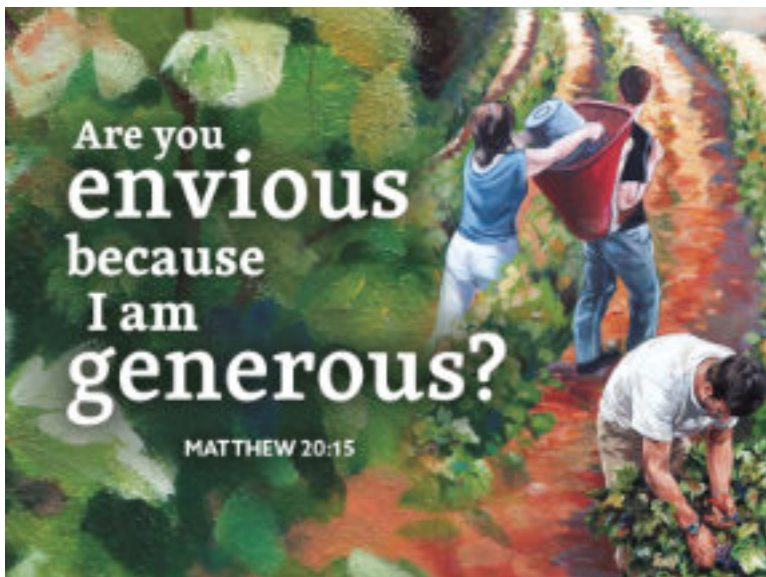




**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**September 20, 2026**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**34 E. Orange Street**  
**Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993**  
**Web Site: [memluth.org](http://memluth.org)**  
**E-mail: [office@memluth.org](mailto:office@memluth.org)**  
**717-532-4614**

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

**Reverend Godfred Effisah**  
**717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)**  
**[pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)**  
**Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 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  
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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** *Variations on "Holy, Holy, Holy"*

- Austin

## 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** "Lord of Light"

ELW 688

## 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



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.  
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.  
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.  
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

**Jonah 3:10—4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life

from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”<sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush.<sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.<sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.<sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

#### PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

**READ RESPONSIVELY**

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king,  
 and bless your name forever and ever.
- <sup>2</sup> **Every day will I bless you  
 and praise your name forever and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
 There is no end to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works to another  
 and shall declare your power.**
- <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
 and all your marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
 and I will recount your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
 they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

#### SECOND READING

**Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### GOSPEL

**Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock,

he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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** "As Saints of Old"

**ELW 695**

### 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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*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 God of all goodness, be with every student, teacher, and parent at the beginning of this school year. Bring peace where there is anxiety, joy where there's stress, and strength for every challenge ahead. Cover them with your protection and guide their hearts and minds each day. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 SOLO** "Come, Sunday" - D. Ellington **Brenda Mason**

*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 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.**

### **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

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

## COMMUNION HYMN "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

Senior Choir

*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.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

ELW 669

## DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE "Postlude in D"

- Willan

## Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF) Sunday, September 20, 2026

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

# **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!***

