

# LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day*

*December 25, 2025 at 10am*

C – Celebrant

D - Deacon

A - Assistant

L – Lector

R – Response

Please be aware that worship is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our Facebook/YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. It is best to sit in the balcony or in the last four pews to not be seen on camera. Holy Communion can be brought to you in your seat so that you are not filmed receiving the Sacrament. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

#### \*GATHERING HYMN

*“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

Hymn #275

#### \*INVOCATION

*We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.*

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**R: Amen.**

#### \*APOSTOLIC GREETING

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R: And also with you.**

#### \*PENITENTIAL RITE

C: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

C: Most merciful God,

**R: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

C: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

*We make the sign of the cross as God forgives us this day.*

**R: Amen.**

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, using a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men."

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## \*GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

C: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**R: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 62:6-12**

L: A reading from Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored, but those who harvest it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "Look, your savior comes; his reward is with him and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord," and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 97** *(sung responsively)*

The LORD is king; let the | earth rejoice;\*  
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

**Clouds and darkness are | round about him,\*  
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of his throne.**

A fire | goes before him\*  
and burns up his enemies on | every side.

**His lightnings light | up the world;\*  
the earth sees it and | is afraid.**

The mountains melt like wax at the presence | of the LORD,\*  
at the presence of the Lord of | the whole earth.

**The heavens de- | clare his righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples | see his glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!\*

Bow down before him, | all you gods.

**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,\*  
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.**

For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;\*,  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

**The LORD loves those | who hate evil;\*,  
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand | of the wicked.**

Light has sprung up | for the righteous,\*  
and joyful gladness for those who | are truehearted.

**Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,\*  
and give thanks to his | holy name.**

**SECOND READING**

**Titus 3:4-7**

L: A reading from Titus.

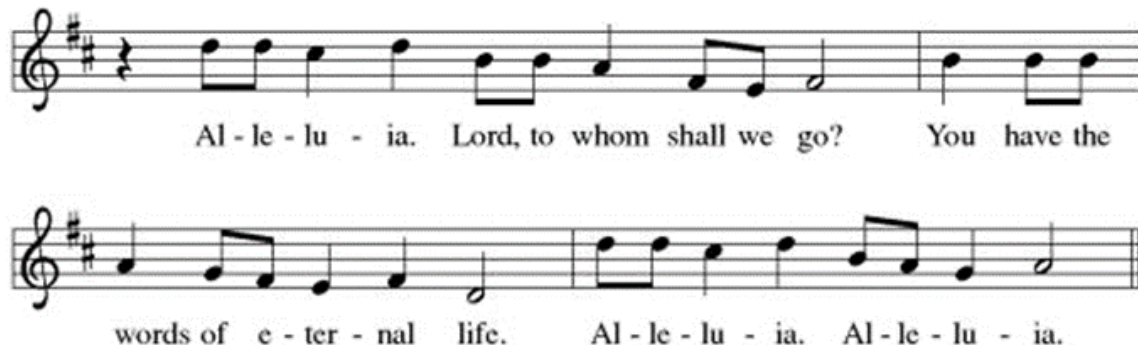
When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand in honor of the gospel.*

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

C: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

**R: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*We make the sign of the cross with our right thumb on our forehead, lips, and heart to symbolize the gospel being present in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.*

## \*GOSPEL READING

**Luke 2:[1-7]8-20**

[<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. ] Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**R: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## HOMILY

*Please stand as you are able.*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

1. Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn, where - on the Sav - ior  
 2. Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told, who heard th'an - gel - ic  
 3. He spake, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir in hymns of joy, un -  
 4. To Beth - l'hem straight the hap - py shep - herds ran, to see the won - der

of the world was born; rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,  
 her - ald's voice: "Be - hold, I bring good tid - ings of a Sav - ior's birth  
 known be - fore, con - spire; the prais - es of re deem - ing love they sang,  
 God had wrought for man; and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,

which hosts of an - gels chant - ed from a - bove; with them the joy - ful  
 to you and all the na - tions on the earth: this day hath God ful -  
 and heav'n's whole orb with al - le - lu - ias rang; God's high - est glo - ry  
 her son, the Sav - ior, in a man - ger laid; a - mazed, the won - drous

tid - ings were be - gun of God in - car - nate and the Vir - gin's son.  
 filled his prom - ised word, this day is born a Sav - ior, Christ the Lord."  
 was their an - them still, peace on the earth, and un - to men good will.  
 sto - ry they pro - claim, the ear - liest her - alds of the Sav - ior's name.

5. Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind  
 God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!  
 Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
 from his poor manger to his bitter cross.  
 Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
 till our imperfect state God doth replace.

6. Then may we hope, th'angelic throngs among,  
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
 he that was born upon this joyful day  
 around us all his glory shall display;  
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
 eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

John Byrom, 1749; alt.

YORKSHIRE 10.10.10.10.10.  
 John Wainwright, 1750

**\*NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven**

*We bow our heads in honor of the mystery of the Incarnation.*

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the Virgin Mary and was made man;**

*Our heads are raised.*

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of Life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**



## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

C: Today, all the ends of the earth see the saving power of God. Through the Virgin's Son, the Word-made-flesh, let us offer our Christmas petitions to God our loving Father.

*A brief silence.*

A: For the holy Church of God, that we may joyfully proclaim God's presence among us through his Incarnate Son, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells – Douglass, Anna, Lauren, Lucas, Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, Julia, and Nora, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For our law enforcement officers, first responders, and service women and men, especially Matt, Nikolas, Sam, John, Dominic, Blake, Keegan, Michael, Stephen, Chris, and John, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For the nations and places where Christ is not known, that the Holy Spirit may bring them to trust the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray especially for our missionaries: Richard, Emily, Ben & Courtney, Stephen & Jodi, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For the peace of all peoples, that they may know the light which darkness can never overpower, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For those separated from the ones they love at this time, that the child of Bethlehem may draw them into the consoling warmth of his family feast, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For all our families celebrating this joyful feast, that, as we welcome our savior, so we will see and welcome him in his poor, let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Diana B., Sam D., Betty E., Crist E., Cristin E., Nadine E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., Diane G., Peter H., Shirley H., Nancy I., Keira K., Blane M., Iva R., Rena S., Amber S., Lucas S., Larry S., Don W., Bev U. and Jack U., our homebound members and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (*a brief silence*), let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

A: For the faithful departed, that the peace and saving power of Christ will be granted to them, especially, Ralph, Sara, Paul, Franklin and Adela let us pray to the Lord.

**R: O God, hear us.**

C: Lord God, in purity and love, your Son was brought forth by blessed Mary, your handmaid. Hear our prayers on this day of celebration. Through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen.**

*Please be seated while the bread and wine are brought forward for consecration  
and the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.*

## MEAL

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

*"What Feast of Love"*

Hymn #487

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

C: Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice of praise and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

**R: May the Lord accept our sacrifice of praise for the glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

C: Father, may we follow the example of your Son who became man and lived among us. May we receive the gift of divine life through these offerings here on earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**R: Amen.**

### DIALOGUE

The musical notation for the Dialogue section consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by slurs. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

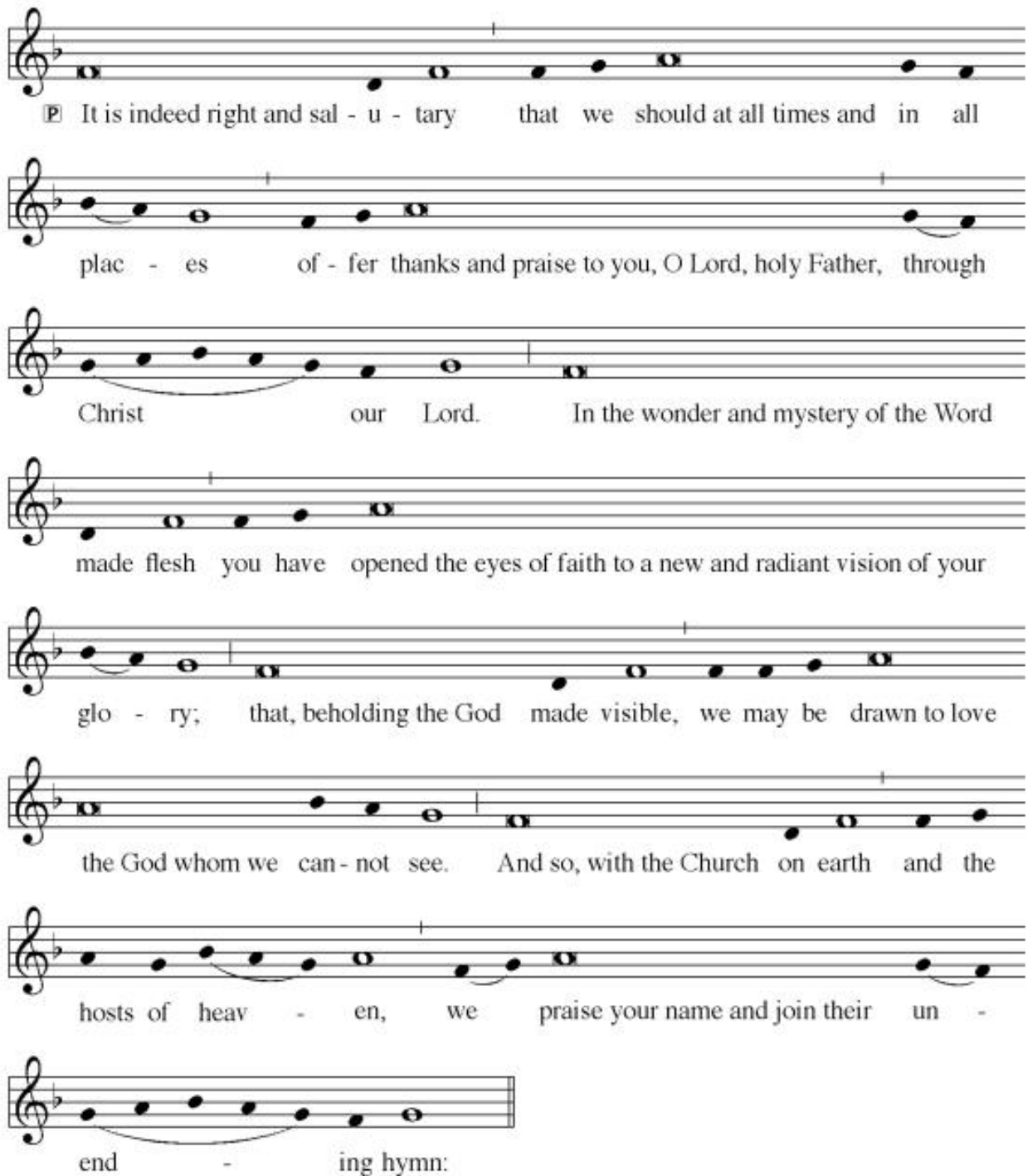
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**



It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all  
plac - es of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through  
Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word  
made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your  
glo - ry; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love  
the God whom we can - not see. And so, with the Church on earth and the  
hosts of heav - en, we praise your name and join their un -  
end - ing hymn:

### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



### **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

C: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.  
He is your Word, inseparable from you.  
Through him you created all things,  
and in him you take delight.  
He is your Word,  
sent from heaven to a Virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.  
It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup.  
Again he gave you thanks and praise,  
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood,  
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be  
forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill + us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
*We make the sign of the cross asking God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.*  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is  
yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.



### \*LORD'S PRAYER

C: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

### \*PEACE

C: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R: And also with you.**

C: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### \*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.

### **\*INVITATION**

C: This the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**R: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*Please be seated.*

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER** *(for those viewing the live-stream)*

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All baptized Christians who acknowledge the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would prefer a blessing come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Beginning with the front pews, form one line and make your way down the center aisle. Please pick up a communion glass from the tray on your right. Receive our Lord Jesus' Body from the Celebrant and, according to where you are seated, receive his Precious Blood from the Assistant and consume both elements. Upon receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, respond **Amen**. Please place your used communion glass in the tray on the table and return to your seat by the side aisle. Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*"Away in a Manger"*

Hymn #278

*"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"*

Hymn #272

*Please stand at the direction of the Celebrant.*

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. Lord, with faith and joy we celebrate the birthday of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord forever and ever.

**R: Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **\*BLESSING**

C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

*We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.*

C: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R: Amen.**

#### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

Hymn #290

#### **\*DISMISSAL**

D: The Worship is ended, go in peace.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

#### **\*POSTLUDE**

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

Celebrant/Homilist  
Assistant  
Acolyte  
Organist

The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*  
Karlene Jaggan  
Douglass Howard  
Barbara Dupler

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### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**December 25 @ 10am – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)**

December 27 from 5-7pm – Christmas Party in Social Hall

**January 6 @ 7pm – The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

January 23, 2026 - Family Game Night at Shells

February 20, 2026 – Hershey Bears Hockey Game

March 22, 2026 - Concert at St. Patrick Cathedral Harrisburg

April 18, 2026 - Walk at East Hanover Township Park

May 17, 2026 - Mini Golf

June 20, 2026 - Knoebels

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## **SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*“We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.”*

287 Shells Church Rd.

Grantville, PA 17028

Office phone: 717-469-2586

Church website: [www.shellschurch.org](http://www.shellschurch.org)

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**The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*, Pastor**

Cell: 717-870-4505

Email: [fatherbarnes3@gmail.com](mailto:fatherbarnes3@gmail.com)

**Barbara Dupler, Director of Music**

Email: [scdbjd@aol.com](mailto:scdbjd@aol.com)

**Theresa Reidmiller, Administrative Assistant**

Email: [shellsadmin@shellschurch.org](mailto:shellsadmin@shellschurch.org)

**Charles Schreiber, Treasurer**

Email: [charlieschreiber514@gmail.com](mailto:charlieschreiber514@gmail.com)

**Parish Council:** Sandy Mader (P), Brenda Frye (VP), Christina Frye (S), Ryan Jaggan (T),  
Diana Budd, Tom Terry, Steve Espenshade, Mark Stremmel

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**Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and “like/subscribe” our church page!**

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**We have WiFi!**

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

Password: **GodIsAwesome** (*case-sensitive*)