

LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve at Night

December 24, 2025 at 10pm

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. 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

“A Christmas Medley”

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Christmas Ensemble

Anna Holler, Soloist

Near the conclusion of the prelude, we will light our candles to let the light of Christ shine brightly into the darkness of Sin. Please light your candle from the Usher's candle by tipping your candle to theirs.

*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Hymn #281

*BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

C: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Be with us this night, and bless this creche, that it may be a visible sign of your saving grace and love in all our Christmas celebrations; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever.

R: Amen.

Please extinguish your candles after the Blessing of the Nativity.

*HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn #283

*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**

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** *(the bells are rung)*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.' The second staff begins with the word 'All' above the first note. The lyrics are: 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,'. The third staff has the lyrics: 'we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.' The fourth staff has the lyrics: 'Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,'. The fifth staff has the lyrics: 'you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;'. The sixth staff has the lyrics: 'you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.' The seventh staff has the lyrics: 'For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,'. The eighth staff has the lyrics: 'you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,'. The ninth staff has the lyrics: 'in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

C: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and on the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 *(sung responsively)*

Sing to the LORD | a new song;*

sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;*

proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.

Declare his glory a- | mong the nations*

and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*

he is more to be feared | than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;*

but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;*

ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;*

bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;*

let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!*

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness* and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

L: A reading from Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL ANTHEM

“Luther’s Christmas Carol”

Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able in honor of the Gospel.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn. In that 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. But 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, 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 are you are able.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*”

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: On this blessed night, we rejoice, because our Savior has been born. Let us pray to the Father, who has shown his endless love by sending us his only Son.

A brief silence.

A: For the Church, that we may continue to spread the Good News of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For all the members of the Church throughout the world, that they may share the joy of this holy night, and rejoice in the light of faith, 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 those who are seeking Christ, that they may find a faith community centered around Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For all mothers, that they may follow the example of blessed Mary, who welcomed the infant Christ into her life, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For our community, especially parents and children, that all families may appreciate the true spirit of Christmas giving, 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 souls of all who shared our Christmas joy in times past on earth, especially, Ralph, Sara, Paul, Franklin and Adela that they may come to eternal glory, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

C: Father, you sent your only Son into the world, truly God and Man. Mindful of your great Gift, we confidently place our needs before you, 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

“Song of Bethlehemtown”

Senior Choir
Jacob Mende, Flute

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: May our sacrifice of praise on this day’s feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R: Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

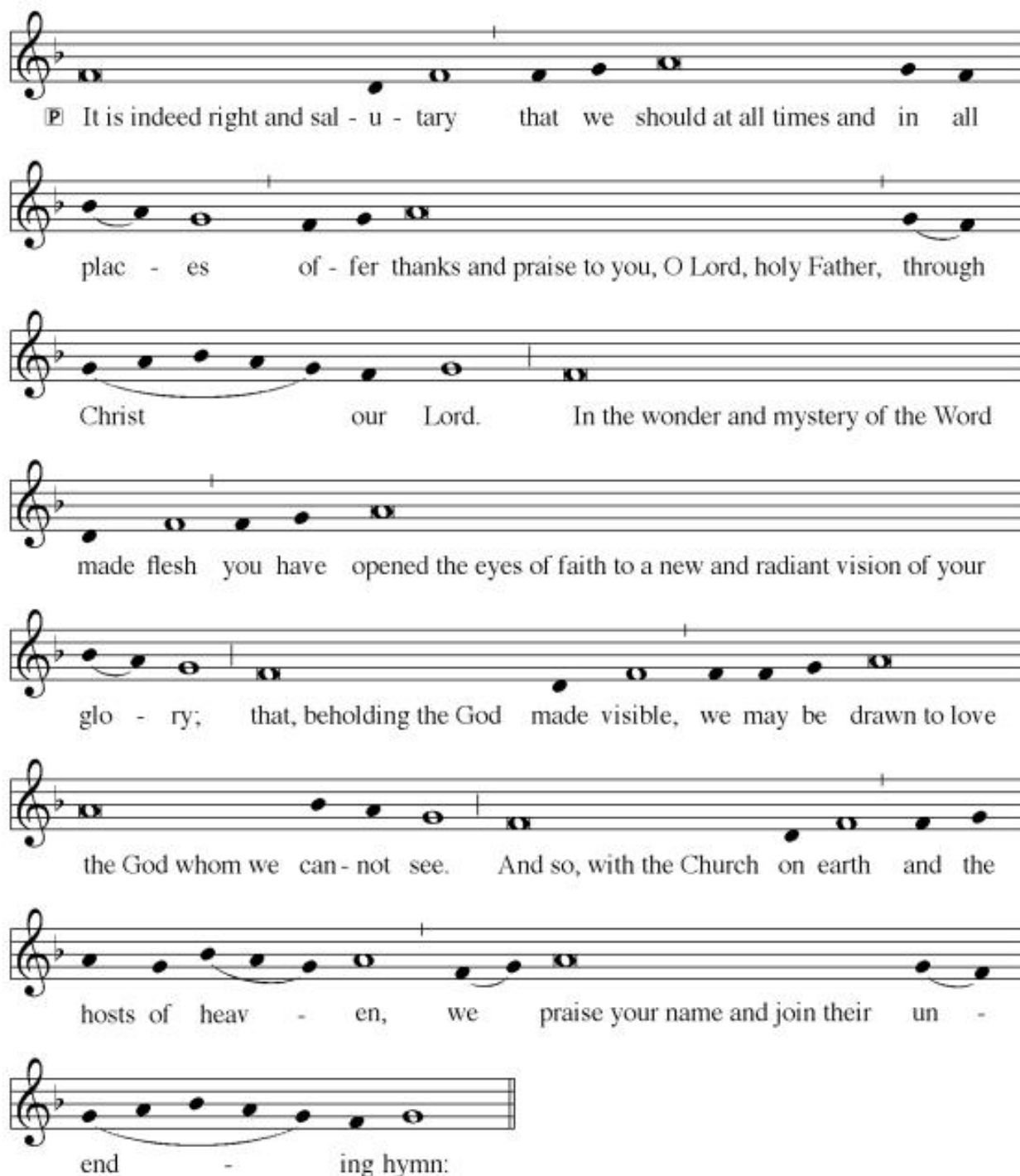
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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**



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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

***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.

Please remain standing after sharing the Peace.

*LAMB OF GOD

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff ends with a period. The second staff ends with a period. The third staff ends with a period. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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. Low-Gluten Hosts are available for those who wish to receive the Lord this way – simply inform the Celebrant. Mustum (sacramental non-alcoholic wine that was not left to ferment) is available for those who wish to receive the Lord this way – simply inform one of the Assistants distributing the chalice. 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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Hymn #279

"Away in a Manger"

Hymn #277

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Hymn #276

"Love Has Come"

Hymn #292

Please stand as you are able at the direction of the Celebrant.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. God our Father, we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. May we share his life completely by living as he taught. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

R: Amen.

SENDING

***SOLEMN BLESSING**

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Silence for reflection.

C: When he came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of the world, and filled this holy night with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.

R: Amen.

C: God sent his angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth. May he fill you with joy and make you a herald for his gospel.

R: Amen.

C: When the Word became flesh, earth was joined to heaven. May he give you his peace and good will, and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

R: Amen.

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**

"Joy to the World"

Hymn #267

***DISMISSAL**

C: The Worship is ended, go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

"Joy to the World"

THOSE SERVING:

Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Assistant	Karlene Jaggan
Lector	Steve Espenshade
Acolyte	Mary Shellenberger (+), Jacob Mende, Emma Jurell
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Greeters/Ushers	Diana Budd & Audrey Neiswender
Organist	Barbara Dupler

SAVE THE DATES:

December 24 @ 4pm – The Nativity of the Lord at St. John Hoernerstown

December 24 @ 7pm – The Nativity of the Lord (Family Liturgy)

December 24 @ 10pm – The Nativity of the Lord (Traditional Liturgy)

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

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (November 30, 2025)

2025 Approved Budget \$295,815

General Fund Income: \$242,809.57
General Fund Expenses: \$271,045.30

Special Funds YTD Contributions

Grantville Food Pantry: \$5,753.74
Capital Improvement Fund: \$42,080
Adult Forum: \$824
ELCA World Hunger: \$2,555
Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,695
Lutheran Disaster Response \$3,085
Central PA Food Bank \$1,000
Kid to Kid (VBS): \$600
Love of Family \$5,968
Abiding Memorial Fund: \$52,375
Gotshall Music Memorial \$6,437.25

Financial Q&A from the Finance Committee

I am withdrawing funds from my IRA and would like to direct some to Shells Lutheran Church. How can I do it?

If you are 70 ½ and are withdrawing funds from your Traditional IRA to satisfy your required minimum distribution, you may want to consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCD’s can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (“RMD”) for the year as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from a Traditional IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions including Social Security and Medicare.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCD’s are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year’s required minimum distribution, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

The key rule to remember is that the distribution must be made directly to the charity and not the owner or beneficiary. Distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or else it will be counted as a taxable distribution. The owner or beneficiary can receive this check and deliver it to the charity but he or she cannot deposit the check and then make out another one to the charity.

You should always consult your financial advisor if you are thinking about a QCD.

If you would like further information about contributing a QCD to Shells Lutheran Church, contact Charles Schreiber at 717-361-3823.

This month's special offering will go to benefit ELCA Good Gifts. Please pick up a piggy bank in the Narthex.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Ralph Gussler, Sara Plouse, Paul Shelahamer, Franklin & Adela Wagner.*

Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit: *Diana Budd, Sam Dupler, Betty Espensshade, Crist Espensshade, Cristin Espensshade, Nadine Espensshade, Mim Fake, Ed Fake, Herb Fisher, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Blane Moreland, Iva Rodemaker, Rena Sattazahn, Amber Sherman, Lucas Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh, Jack Ulsh and Don Whitehaus.* To have a name added or removed to this Sunday Prayer List please contact the Church Office.

The entire congregation is invited to a volunteer appreciation Christmas party held by Father Barnes on December 27th from 5-7pm in the Social Hall. Dinner from JoJo's in Hummelstown will be provided around 5pm with a white elephant gift exchange to follow. Please RSVP to Father Barnes and plan on bringing a gift for the exchange.

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."

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

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and "like/subscribe" our church page!

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

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