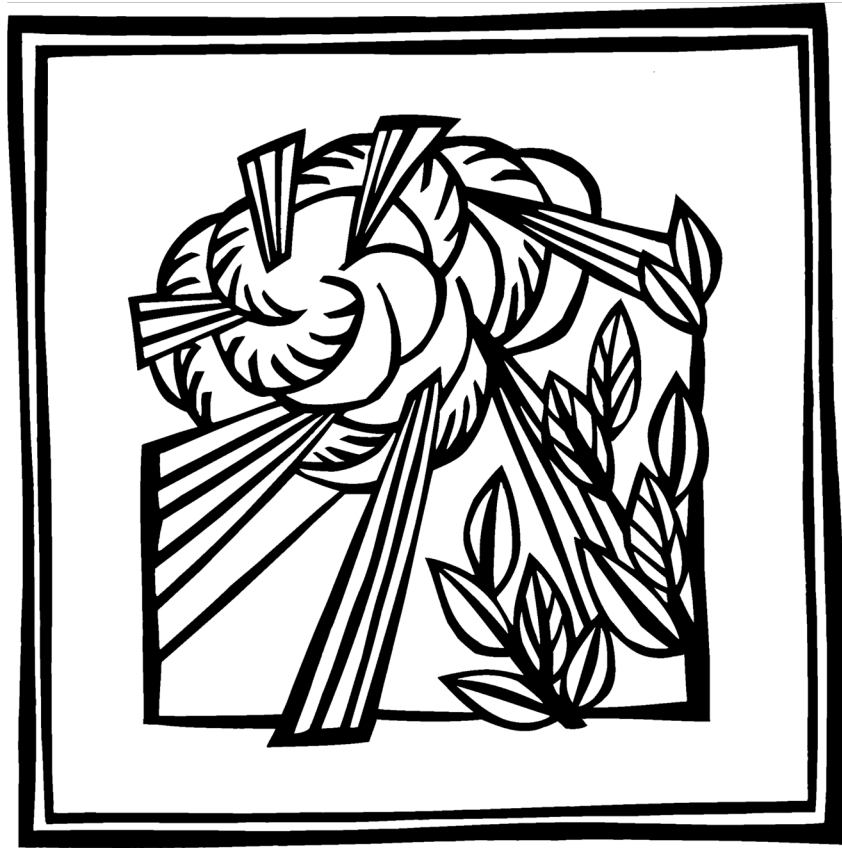


# Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

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

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
+ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

## **Gathering Song: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" - ELW #275**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as

a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## **Children at Heart Sermon**

**Gospel Acclamation: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” - ELW #270, verse 1**

## **Gospel Reading: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The Gospel according to Johns  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

[<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Hymn of the Day: "In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness" - ACS #1093



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your  
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
 firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
 match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,  
 A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,  
 Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us  
 sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and  
 Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we  
 lead us home - ward, to the love - feast



as your own,  
 breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 glimpse your face,  
 of the Lamb,

Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1890–1975; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.  
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## **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 to the dead.**

**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**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

### **Music Voluntary**

### **Offering Prayer**

God of heaven and earth,  
from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.  
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

*To the tune of Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella, "Everlasting Light" by David Eck*

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.



## **Words of Institution**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

### **Hymns during Communion**

***"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* - ELW #276**

***"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"* - ELW #286**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **Blessing**

The God of love,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” - ELW #288**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep Arlys & Mike Neal and Lauren Chitty and their entire family in your prayers following the death of their daughter and sister, Cindy Grosz.*

*Please keep Pastor Anita Nuetzman and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Dennis Nuetzman.*

*Please keep the family of +Darla Bohrer (niece of Sandy Christian) following her death*

Joanne Larson  
*mother of Laurie McCracken*

Karen Anderson

Caleb Roof

Jo Rod

Kelsee Holzmer  
*granddaughter of Joyce Mack*

Diane Eilers

Steve Schrum  
*father of Jill Rhodes*

Jake Jacobson

Evelyn Onstot

Marty Schuler

Katy Beno  
*sister of Sandy Christian*

Kathy Larsen

Eric Forsyth

Ardith Forsyth

Crystal Vines

Katie Bass  
*niece of Judy Coverdale*

Wayne Johnson

Troy Vincent

Johann Thiel

Mike Neal

Christina King

Sherry Kluever

Kim Elliott

Pr. Marcia Kisner

Marlene Waddell  
*friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch*

John Bass  
*son-in-law of Ron & Gloria Jacobson*

Carol Vincent

Cassie Harrell

Jean Smith

Easton Farrington

Janice Hartz

Jackie Byers  
*daughter of Shellie Black*

Donna See

Norma Dannan  
*friend of Betty Runge*

Fred Samuelson

Jaylee Bartleson

George Forsyth

Janeen Driscoll

Julie Sutherland

Jan Cook

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### TODAY: Christmas De-decorating

We need help in carefully packing away all of the beautiful Christmas decorations following worship this morning. Thank you for any time you can give!

### Free Fall Risk Assessment

*January 6, 1-3 PM, Central Presbyterian Church*

Central Presbyterian Church will be hosting 20-minute free Fall Risk Assessments on January 6 from 1-3 PM. The assessments consist of surveys and physical assessments to aid in decreasing the fear of falling and improving overall physical health. Call 515-290-9934 or email [walkwithease@iastate.edu](mailto:walkwithease@iastate.edu) to schedule an appointment

### MLC Member Survey

Earlier this year our congregation council set a goal to reach out to Memorial's membership in the hopes of listening well to the needs and hopes of our congregation. A subcommittee was formed to create a survey that would help in identifying what needs are being met, as well as what needs are not currently being met. The council needs everyone's honest feedback in order to identify how we can best serve and love as Memorial Lutheran Church. Thank you in advance for your time and your thoughts. Your participation will help us to grow and abide together in Christ for the sake of the world.



### Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/> give or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know? In Tithe.ly, you can set up one-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund, Capital Improvement (for upcoming building projects), the "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" heating and cooling project, and more!***



## **A Special Note Regarding Tithe.ly Fees**

We so appreciate all that give using the online/mobile giving platform Tithe.ly! If you haven't already, please consider including Tithe.ly processing fees as part of your one-time and recurring gifts. To do this, simply check the "Cover Fees" box when setting up your gift. If you have already set up a recurring gift and would like to start including the fees, you'll need to delete this gift and set it up again with "Cover Fees" checked.

## **Stay Connected with Memorial**

Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at [bit.ly/memorialconnect](http://bit.ly/memorialconnect) or by using the QR code



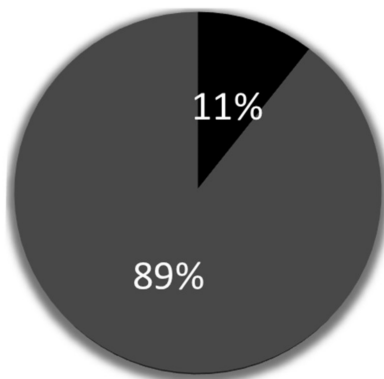
## Save the Date

### Christmas De-decorating

When: Sunday, January 5 following worship

## Capital Improvement Needs

Amount Needed to Cover Known  
Capital Improvement Needs:  
**\$108,348**



 % Contributed to date  
 % Still Needed

### Known Needs

✓ West wing heating/cooling	\$5,330
Door replacement	\$8,657
Parking lot concrete	\$18,830
Sanctuary screens/projectors	\$47,000
Sanctuary carpet	\$28,531



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Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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