



# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service*



**MORNING PRAYER**

**APRIL 21ST 2024**

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAMED FROM THE  
SANCTUARY @ MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH @  
9:30AM ON THE MLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL. VISIT  
[HTTPS://MILTONLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](https://miltonlutheranchurch.org) FOR  
LINK TO LIVE WORSHIP.





TODAY AS YOU ENTER THE  
SANCTUARY, PLEASE TAKE A  
MOMENT TO BE INSPIRED BY THE  
BEAUTY OF THE FLOWERS. THIS  
WEEK'S FLOWERS WERE  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:

*Rick Coup*

## **IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES**

We would like to give special thanks to our worship leaders.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS**

**Pastor:** Gary Schaeffer

**Director of Music:** John Warfel

**Assistant Director of Music:** Nancy Walters

**Worship assistant:** Karen Fry

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Karl and Lois Snyder

**Communion Asst:** Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime

**Worship Setup:** Penny Ulmer

In Person & LIVE streamed from the Sanctuary at Milton  
Lutheran Church at  
9:30am on the Milton Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. Visit  
<https://miltonlutheranchurch.org> to link to the LIVE worship.

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

Thank you for joining us today. Whether you've worshipped with us before or this is your first time, we want you to know that you are welcome. As Christians we recognize that each of us comes to worship just as we are. God loves us and so we love others, no expectations, no judgment, only acceptance grace, and love.

*(Bold italic items to be spoken by congregation.)*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

**BAPTISMAL SONG: "All Are Welcome"**

# All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Let us pray...

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water all around us. Especially, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Watershed, you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

As we gather for worship today, we remember how you connect each of us to another in time and place. In this place, where people have gathered for thousands of years beginning with the Susquehannock tribe, then the first immigrants in what would become Milton, to today where people of all different backgrounds, traditions, and beliefs gather for worship. You bring us together in remembrance of our baptism.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and help them to remember that it is through your love we receive the gift of grace.

*Blessed be God now and forever.*

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **OPENING**

O Lord, open my lips, *and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Give glory to God, our light, and our life.

*Oh, come, let us worship and praise.*

**HYMN: ELW 369 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”**

## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: Lamb of God**

## Listen, God Is Calling

*Neno lake Mungu*

*Refrain*

Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
that he came to save us and set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 16:6-15

<sup>6</sup>They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup>When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; <sup>8</sup>so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>When

he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## **SERMON: "God Questions"**

## **HYMN: ELW 574 "Here I Am, Lord"**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,



**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering

Refrain



Let my prayer be a fra-grant of-fer-ing, as in-cense to you a-rise.



Let my prayer be a fra-grant of-fer-ing, my hands lift-ed up in praise.



1 O Lord, I call to you,                    come quick-ly to my side.  
2 Please watch my lips, O Lord,            and guard the words I say.  
3 My eyes are turned to you,                O Lord, my liv-ing God.

Refrain



O Lord, please hear my voice; lis-ten when I cry.  
Please turn my heart to you; chase my sin a-way.  
I look to you for help; be my faith-ful rock.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, *as we gather around this table to receive the gift of your grace, we offer ourselves to you. All we have, everything we are, and everything we will be comes from you. We give you thanks, offer our time, gifts, and resources as people of God. Moved by your Spirit we ask that these gifts may be instruments of your love as we seek to love others. Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

*And also, with you.*

Lift up your heart.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

O God most mighty,

O God most merciful,

O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child.

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 to 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 his death, we cry out Amen. ***Amen.***

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. ***Amen.***

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. ***Amen.***

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

***Amen.***

### LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

*Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever, Amen.*

# Come to the Table in Love

Leader



Come, \_\_\_ come, \_\_\_ come to the ta - ble in love. \_\_\_  
come to the ta - ble in need. \_\_\_  
come to the ta - ble in truth. \_\_\_

Assembly



We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name. \_\_\_  
We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name. \_\_\_  
We come to - geth - er in Je - sus' name. \_\_\_  
We go to live \_\_\_ in Je - sus' name. \_\_\_



We come to the ta - ble in love.  
We come to the ta - ble in need.  
We come to the ta - ble in truth.

## COMMUNION

*The Body of Christ given for you.*

*The Blood of Christ shed for you.*

# COMMUNION SONG: "You Are Holy"

## You Are Holy *Du är helig*

1\*



*Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



*än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nå - ra än - då.*  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



*Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,*  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



*väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.*  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



*Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



*du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!*  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



*Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,*  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



*ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.*  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

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## COMMUNION BLESSING

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**HYMN: ELW 536 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”**

## SENDING

Together we at the Milton Lutheran Church

*Foster community through faith, love, and service.*

Go forth in faith, to live out our mission.

*Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OUR YOUTUBE  
CHANNEL TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

**SOURCES:** [Sundaysandseasons.com](http://Sundaysandseasons.com)

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# Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Friday- Sunday Office Closed

# Pastor's Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

*Please contact Pastor Gary to make an appointment.*

## Contact Us

Milton Lutheran Church

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Pastor E-mail- [pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org)

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>



# Prayer Requests

## PRAYER LIST

MATT SPANGLER

JUDY FARR

BARBARA ASHENFELDDER

SELECA ROBENOLT

FAMILY OF TYLER DAVID MORTON

DAVE ROBINSON

DIANNE PERRIN

WALTER SCHOLL

VALENTIA CASTILLO

MARY ANN SOLOMON

JACKIE FISHER

THE CONKLIN FAMILY

THE FAMILY OF KAREN WALIZE

## HOMEBOUND

MARY BILLHIME

GERALD GREENLY

MELVIN CRIST

NANCY BROWN

HELEN NAPP

