



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service

DECEMBER 7TH 2025

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.



TRADITIONAL



**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:**

Jennifer Cochran and Family
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 Asst: Lynnette Weisner

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime

Communion Asst: Kevin and Alison Metzger

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.

BELL PRELUDE: "Through the Cloven Skies"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are

forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

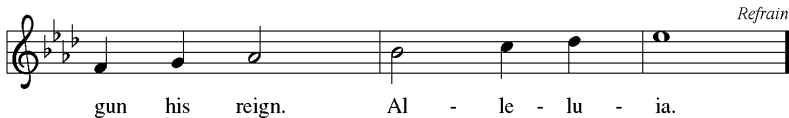
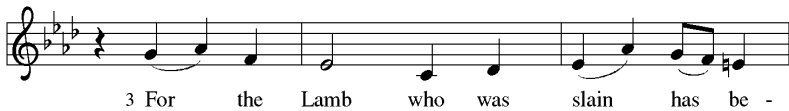
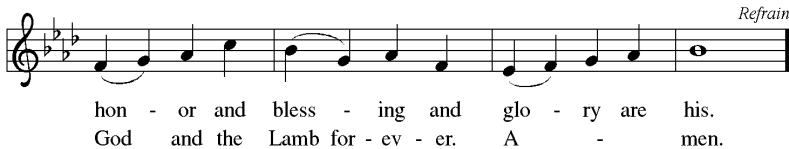
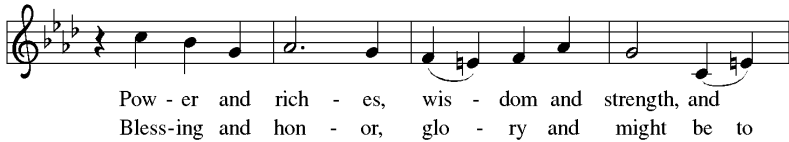
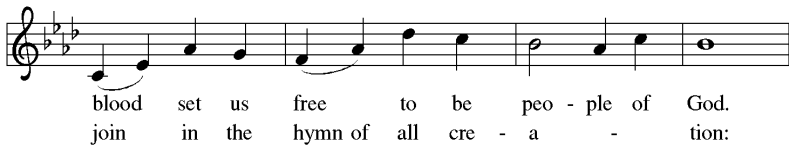
HYMN: ELW 249 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



WREATH LIGHTING: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 1 and 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Choir Anthem: “Waiting, Watching, and Wondering”

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 15: 4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

- ¹⁰ and again he says,
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;
- ¹¹ and again,
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;
- ¹² and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”
- ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ² **May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.**
- ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ¹⁸ **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**
- ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter. *Glory to you O Lord.*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five

more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter,’ ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?’ ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

SERMON: “Nurture Your Gifts”

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 711 “O Day of Peace”

APOSTLES CREED

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

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 lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.'

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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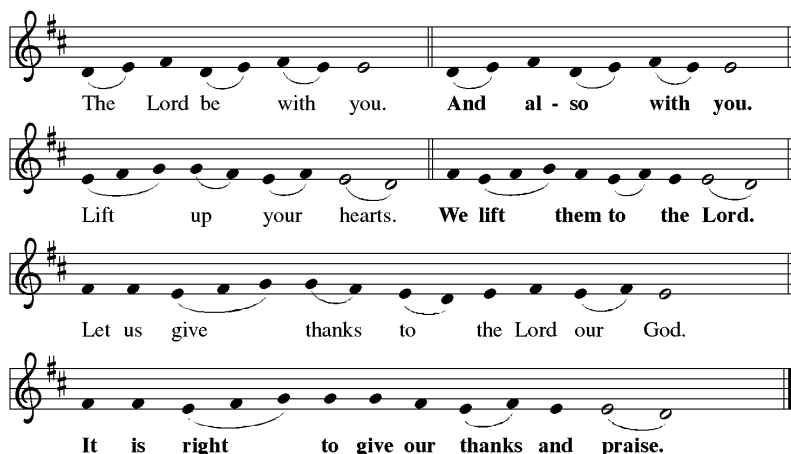
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, *as we gather around this table to receive the gift of your grace, we offer ourselves to you. All that 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.*

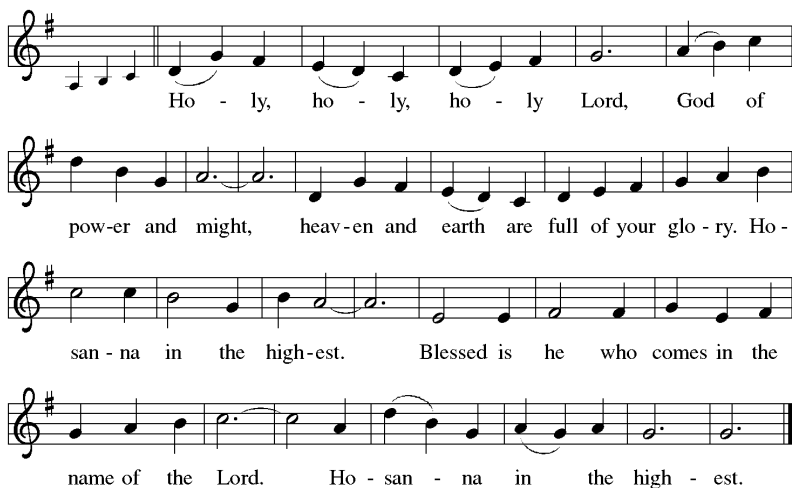
Trusting in your mercy and moved by your Spirit we ask that these gifts may be instruments of your love as we seek to love others. Amen.

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

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



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask 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,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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.*

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG: I Am the Bread of Life

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "The bread that I will give
2 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat
3 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
4 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve
5 You who is my the that . . .

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life . . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . and . . .
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . .

Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

COMMUNION BLESSING

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The musical notation is written on five staves in treble clef. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating that a single word spans across multiple notes or staves.

BLESSING

May the God of creation bless our community, may Jesus the Savior open our hearts to all, may the Holy Spirit empower us with faith, creativity and stewardship to live and serve as people of God now and forever.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN: ELW 246 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

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



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CHANNEL TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

SOURCES: Sundaysandseasons.com

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Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday

12:00 P.M.- 5:00 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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Phone- (570) 742- 4601

Office E-mail- office@miltonlutheranchurch.org

Pastor E-mail- pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

Prayer Requests

PRAYER LIST

DIANNE PERRIN
RUTH GREENLY
TAD HAMPTON
JUDY FARR
ERNIE DELP III
CINDY KOPYSCIANSKI
SUSAN EVANS
KAREN MARTELLO
VALERIE BARNWELL
KAREN ARRANTS
JUDY COUP
TRUDY FISHER

HOMEBOUND

MARY BILLHIME
MARY AND MELVIN CRIST
HELEN NAPP
BARB ASHENFELDER
CHARLIE STIGERWALT
CANNAN ROBINSON

