



the good news is...

protection & care for  
the vulnerable

# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love &  
Service*

MARCH 15TH 2026

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:

*Russ and Linda Bastian*

**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:** Penny Ulmer

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Cheyenne and Sandy Loesser

**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: "My Song is Love Unknown"**

**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.*

In baptism, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. We are washed in God's mercy, sealed by the Spirit, and called beloved Children of God. Yet we confess that we do not always live as people of grace. Let us return to the waters of life, confessing our sins and trusting God's promise.

*Brief silence for reflection*

*God of Life, we confess that we forget we belong to you. We turn from your ways, we fail to love our neighbors, and we doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive us, O God. Wash us again in your grace. Renew in us the joy of baptism, so that we may rise to serve you in freedom. Amen.*

Hear the good news. By Water and the Spirit, you are buried with Christ and raised to new life. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. You are made clean, renewed and sent to shine with the light of Christ.

*Thanks be to God! Amen!*

**HYMN: ELW 324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Face the Cross"**

## **SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 24:17-22**

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. <sup>18</sup> Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup> “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. <sup>20</sup> When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

<sup>21</sup> “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 19:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

**SERMON: “The Good News is... Protection and Care for the Vulnerable”**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 781 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

### Affirmation of Faith

*I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.*

*It sounds like welcome and feels like home.*

*It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.*

*It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.*

*I have seen it alive in the world.*

*And even when my heart aches,*

*even when wars rage,*

*even when mercy feels out of reach,*

*I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.*

*I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.*

*I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.*

*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### Prayers of Intercession

Jesus of Nazareth,

you loved without abandon.

You loved your disciples, with their questions and their bumbling mistakes.

You loved the children, with their runny noses and their easy joy.

You loved the widows and the immigrants, with their heartbreak and their dreams for a better tomorrow.

You loved the tax collectors and the outcasts, with their hands open to their neighbors.

You loved like it was easy. And my goodness, do we wish that we were more like that.

So today, we lift up the vulnerable in our community—the ones you loved so quickly.

Feel free to edit and add onto this list to lift up the vulnerable in your own community, keeping in mind any current events.

Today we pray for the immigrants in our land—for those running from fear, longing to give their children a better life.

Today we pray for single parents, who stretch themselves thin to be all things for the little ones they love.

Today we pray for those living below the poverty line, for those who are unsure where their next meal will come from.

Today we pray for those who live in fear due to the color of their skin, the way that they dress, or the person that they love.

Today we pray for those who are bent over by the weight of depression, anxiety, or addiction.

We could go on and on, God, but we know that you see each of us. So draw near to your children.

Wrap your arms around the vulnerable, the weary, the grief-filled. Comfort, O comfort your people.

Wrap your arms around us.

And as you do, we ask that we might be transformed.

As you do, we ask that we might bend toward love and move toward compassion.

As you do, we ask that you might soften our hearts.

Until your promised day, when all are cared for and seen, this will be our prayer.

***Amen.***

**ELW 692 “We Are an Offering”**

# We Are An Offering

ELW 692

Words and Music by  
Dwight Liles

G<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> C/E

We lift our voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

4 Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G C Dm<sup>7</sup>

lives up to You: we are an of-fer-ing Lord, use our voice - es, Lord, use our

7 Em<sup>7</sup> C/E F C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours: we are an of-fer-ing

10 Em<sup>7</sup> A Dm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>7</sup> Am

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

13 Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Dm G<sup>7</sup>

give to you, we give to you. We lift our

16 C Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>(add2)</sup> C/E Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C/E

voice - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You: we are an

19 Dm<sup>7</sup> G C Dm<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> C/E

of-fer-ing Lord, use our voice - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

22 F C<sup>(add2)</sup> B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C

lives, they are Yours: we are an of-fer-ing We are an of-fer-ing

rit. . . . .

## 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**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

By ALBERT H. MALOTTE

SLOWLY

B $\flat$ 
F/B $\flat$ 
B $\flat$ /D
E $\flat$ 6 Fsus F

OUR FA - THER WHICH ART IN HEAV-EN,

7 B $\flat$ /D
GM
CM7
F7sus F7
B $\flat$ (ADD2) B $\flat$

HAL-LOW - ED BE \_\_\_\_\_ THY NAME.

12 GM
GM9 Gdim7
DM
GM
CM/G C7/G
D

THY KING-DOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE \_\_\_\_\_

17 N.C.
GM E $\flat$ 
B $\flat$ /F
F7sus
B $\flat$ 7sus B $\flat$

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAV - EN.

23 E $\flat$ /B $\flat$ 
B $\flat$ E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  B $\flat$ 
E $\flat$ /G CM/G F7
B $\flat$ 
E $\flat$ /G B $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ 
B $\flat$ /D GM7 E $\flat$ /G F7

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAI - LY

30 B $\flat$ 
GM6 GM6/D GM6/B $\flat$ 
ASus A
EM7( $\flat$ 5)/A
A

BREAD, AND FOR-GIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR-GIVE OUR DEBT-ORS.

35  $E_m7(\flat 5)/A$  A N.C.  $B\flat$   $E\flat$ sus2/G  $E\flat/G$

AND LEAD US NOT IN-TO TEMP-TA - TION, BUT DE-

39  $C7/G$   $F(ADD2)/A$   $Dm/A$   $F7/E\flat$   $B\flat/D$   $E\flat 6$

LIV - ER US FROM E - VIL. FOR THINE IS THE KING-DOM AND THE

43  $C7/E$   $E\flat m/G\flat$   $G\flat+$   $E\flat m6/G\flat$   $B\flat/F$   $Cm/F$   $F7$

POW - ER AND THE GLO - RY FOR - EV -

47 N.C.  $E\flat 6$   $B\flat MAJ7$   $Cm7/F$   $F7$   $B\flat$   $E\flat 6$

ER. FOR THINE IS THE KING-DOM AND THE

51  $C7/E$   $E\flat m/G\flat$   $G\flat+$   $E\flat m6/G\flat$   $B\flat/F$   $Cm7$  N.C.  $Cm$   $Cm7/F$   $F7$  RIT.

POW - ER AND THE GLO - RY FOR - EV - ER, A -

56  $F7$ sus  $E\flat/G$   $B\flat/F$   $E\flat$   $B\flat$ sus2/D  $B\flat/D$  N.C.  $E\flat/G$   $B\flat/F$   $E\flat 6$   $B\flat$   
A TEMPO

- MEN! \_\_\_\_\_

# 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: "I Am the Bread of Life"

# I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

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

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.  
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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.*

# COMMUNION SONG: ACS "Guide My Feet"

## Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

## 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*

## HYMN: ELW 793 "Be Thou My Vision"

## SENDING

As we leave this place,

*When we meet anger, we speak with love.*

*When we meet fear, we speak with hope.*

*When we meet pain, we speak with gentleness.*

But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is

*love and justice for all.*

*It is joy that surprises,*

*and nonviolence that transforms.*

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will?

*Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.*

## 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      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

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# Prayer Requests

## **PRAYER LIST**

DIANNE PERRIN  
RUTH GREENLY  
TAD HAMPTON  
SUSAN EVANS  
KAREN MARTELLO  
KAREN ARRANTS  
JUDY COUP  
TRUDY FISHER  
GLEN DEWIRE  
CUFF GREINER  
LINDA VALIQUETTE  
JO HEDDINGS  
SARA AND ERNIE DELP  
ROSE DEANER  
FAMILY OF TERRY SCHOLL  
WALTER SCHOLL

## **HOMEBOUND**

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

