



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish

Another week has gone by since we have all been separated from our loved ones and our faith community. It has been a blessing for us to gather online and at a distance from one another, but I'm sure each of us is anxious to gather in person again. This virus has caused all of us to examine our lives and the world around us. Undoubtedly, we have all grown and will continue to grow through this experience and the grace of God.

I must be honest and say that I write to you this week with a heavy heart. It is hard not being able to see the people I love. It is hard to not know what the right thing to do is. It is hard to see the hurt and pain of people I care about. It is hard to see the hate that exists in the world. If you are like me, you have been watching disturbing images on our news. People being killed, discriminated against, attacked and more, because of the color of their skin. Riots and protests that are damaging property and hurting others. We continue to be divided as people with differing points of view. All of us seeking direction and looking to have our beliefs and values affirmed.

Amid all of this. I'm reminded of God's promise of the Holy Spirit. We've been hearing about this promise for weeks now in our scripture lessons for worship and bible study. While I do have a heavy heart, I'm at the same time reminded the reason for this heaviness is because the Spirit is stirring something up in each of us. As people of God we are being called to respond and act as Jesus taught us by loving God and loving our neighbor.

This commandment that is given to us by God challenges us to consider how we respond at times like this, and so I want to share a story with you. This is a story about one of my personal heroes, Fred Rogers. In the late 1960's after segregation was deemed illegal in our country there were still many places in the U.S. that continued to limit the freedom of persons of color. It was a well-known fact that throughout the country black people were not permitted to swim in the same pool as whites. Knowing this Mr. Rogers aired an episode in "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood". He sat in a kiddie pool with Officer Clemmon's, an African American Police officer. They simply sat with each other and talked. This one simple action spoke volumes to our country about the need for real lasting change to occur.

So, my prayer for us this week is that the Holy Spirit continues to stir our hearts and minds. That we consider how we are being asked to respond to what is happening, not just by living with this pain in our hearts, but also by considering how we can speak out and act out against the terrible things that are happening in our country. To be like Mr. Rogers and find a way to call people to action that can lead toward real and lasting change.

This week we continue to meet online through Bible Study and online worship. You can visit our parish website for all of the online opportunities at <https://miltonlutheranparish.faiht> or either church's Facebook page. If you have any needs or just want someone to talk to feel free to give me a call at (845) 636-0194 or e-mail schaeffer0319@gmail.com.

Blessings to each of you,

Gary

Sunday, June 7, 2020, Worship Bulletin
Trinity Sunday
Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA



Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Confession For Our Community

With Job of old we cry out:
Everywhere the innocent suffer.
People in our world are judged by the color of their skin.
The poor suffer while the rich live in luxury.
Hate abounds where peace should prevail.
We pray and advocate for change although very little comes.

Hear us, O God:

Hear us, O God.

Revive us with hope:

Revive us with hope.

Give us your life:

Give us your life.

Hear these words, and receive their power:

The majesty of our Lord God undergirds all that is.

The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.

The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God:

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 8

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

¹O | Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,
human beings that you should | care for them? R
⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine;
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.
⁶You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:
⁷all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.
⁹O | Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth! R

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sermon- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*)

Hymn-

Apostles Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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

Gathered into the mystery of the Trinity, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of God's creation.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, and deacons as they lead the church in these trying times. With all the baptized, may they be strengthened to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and in prayer and action, strive for peace and justice in all the earth. Lord in your mercy, **Here our Prayer**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Instill in us a deeper wonder for the created world you've called good, and a greater humility for our place within it. Kindle in us a creative and resilient spirit as we care for the earth and its creatures. Lord in your mercy, **Here our Prayer**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage leaders to seek wisdom and respond with courage and compassion to those most in need. We pray for community leaders in this time of unrest. Further the work of advocates who pursue justice in often ignored communities. Lord in your mercy, **Here our Prayer**

God of care, you created us in your image; we are your beloved children. May we recognize your likeness in one another. We pray for all mourning the death of your beloved child, George Floyd. Hold in your loving embrace all experiencing trauma, fear, uncertainty, and loss. Protect vulnerable children and adults from violence or neglect; provide what is needed for those lacking access to food, shelter, and other services. Lord in your Mercy, **Here our Prayer**

God of healing, you accompany us in sickness and suffering. Bring relief to all afflicted with the coronavirus and all those isolated now more than ever, especially those in prison or care facilities. Strengthen caregivers, health workers, and all whose work ensures the safety and well-being of others. Console, heal, and nourish all in need this day. Lord in your mercy **Here our Prayer**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. Lord in your mercy
Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together saying...

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.

Blessing

May God warm your hearts with the love of the Spirit.

May Jesus guide your comings and goings.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you with the passion to seek justice in the world.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Dismissal P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Devotional- 6/7/20



Opening Prayer

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Genesis 1:1--2:4a

The creation of the heavens and the earth

Psalm 8

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (*Ps. 8:1*)

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth

Matthew 28:16-20

Living in the community of the Trinity

Questions for Reflection

1. What is one thing you needed to hear from God this week that you heard in our scriptures?
2. What is it that God is trying to tell you?
3. What is it that God wants you to do in response to what God is telling you?

Prayers- (What do you have God to give thanks for? What worries you? What does the world need? How can God give you direction?)

Lord's Prayer- (Recite the Lord's Prayer)

Blessing- May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Resources:

Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com #32232

Questions for discussion: workingpreacher.com