



Milton Lutheran Parish

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

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Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

In our Gospel reading for this week Jesus tells his disciples “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” (John 14:15-17). This Gospel text is an important reminder for us, especially during this pandemic. We know of course that Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment, one that is greater than those given to God’s people in the 10 Commandments. This commandment is to love God and love neighbor. It’s an expectation that Jesus has set forth for us. That we should seek to love others in the same way that God has loved us. I don’t know about you, but for me, it’s become easy to want to point fingers at people who are difficult to love. Gosh, it’s even become difficult to tolerate those you live with, having been cooped up in the house with one another for months. And, in the midst of all of this, Jesus reminds us how important it is to show love in the same way Jesus did. As we enter into this new week my prayer for all of you is that you experience God’s love in your life and that you hear God’s command to show this same love to others. It may not be easy, but I promise it’s worth it!

Sunday Worship- We will gather virtually for worship again on Sunday. Because our county has entered the yellow phase of reopening John Warfel and I will have the opportunity to record worship from our sanctuaries. I’ve included a worship bulletin in this document so you can participate. Also, included in this document is the weekly devotional for your use. We hope you enjoy them!

A few of you have asked about when we will be able to gather in person again for worship. Our Parish Council is meeting Friday, May 15, over Zoom to review the guidelines presented to us by the State, the CDC and our synod. After our discussion we will be making a recommendation to both church councils for their review and final decision. Once the decision is made on how and when to move forward with in-person gatherings we will communicate that with all of you. As always, if there is a need please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly either by phone or e-mail. (845) 636-0194 or schaeffer0319@gmail.com

Have a blessed week,
Gary

Sunday, May 17, 2020, Worship Bulletin
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A
Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA



Introduction and Welcome

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Opening Hymn: *What Wondrous Love is This*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth 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.

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him

and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20- Sung

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living

and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;

you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹You brought us in- | to the net;

you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,

but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³I will enter your house | with burnt offerings

and will pay | you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;

I will give you ox- | en and goats. R

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,

and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷I called out to God | with my mouth,

and praised the Lord | with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,

the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹but in truth | God has heard me

and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,

nor withheld unfailing | love from me. R

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

L: The Gospel of John the 14th Chapter

C: Praise to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: *Keeping God’s Commandments*

Hymn: *Loves Divine all Loves Excelling*

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit 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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way. We pray especially for all of those effected by this pandemic. For all that are sick in mind, body or spirit. Help them to know your love and grace in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Closing Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me*

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Worship Devotional- May 17th

Opening Prayer-

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth 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.**

Readings and Psalm-

Acts 17:22-31

Paul's message to the Athenians

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (*Ps. 66:8*)

1 Peter 3:13-22

The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

John 14:15-21

Christ our advocate

Reflection Questions-

1. Have you ever been lost or abandoned? If so, how did you feel and what did you do? (John 14:15-21)
2. What sacred symbols would you remove or re-imagine to better communicate in today's culture? (Acts 17:22-31)
3. What are your prayer habits and where did you learn them? (Psa 66:8-20)

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