



## 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

<https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

*Gary Schaeffer, Pastor*

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Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

As we move through another week there is one word that keeps coming to my heart and mind, community.

Over the past several months it has been a blessing to see the ways that the parish has come together as a community of faith. We have gathered for worship now in the parking lot for a few months. We continue to gather online for worship and bible study. Recently, we established ministry teams that are working hard to find ways for our community to thrive during this difficult time in our lives.

As we finish our outdoor worship this month, I'm saddened we won't be able to gather in the way we have been, but also excited for what November will bring us. People are working hard from our community of faith to get us ready for indoor worship at Trinity. The building is being prepped so we can safely gather with one another and have meaningful worship. Our worship team is designing several new worship formats that will allow us to enhance our worship experience, even with the limitations we have.

Starting November 1, our indoor worship will be different from anything we've done before, and yet familiar as we keep ourselves grounded in the Lutheran tradition and heritage. We also plan to enhance our online worship experience through the month of November and December, looking into Advent and Christmas. I ask for your prayers as our parish leaders work hard to discern the will of God and find ways to make God's dreams for us a reality. I also ask for patience as we continue to adjust and adapt to the ongoing reality of being a faith community in the midst of a pandemic.

It's through God's grace that we continue to find ways to gather, to connect, to serve, and to be the people of God in the world.

Many Blessings to you,

Gary



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### Sunday, October 11, 2020, Worship Bulletin Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA

Welcome to Parking Lot Worship Today!

As we gather for worship, here are some procedures and guidelines for our time together:

1. Tune in your car to FM 87.9 for the audio of the service.
2. For communion we will begin with a word of prayer and the blessing of the elements, followed by an invitation to take communion.
3. You are welcome to sing the hymns if you remain in your car. If you are outside, we ask that you refrain from singing unless you are a minimum of 25 feet from others.
4. The ushers will collect offering before and after the service at the entrances and exits of the parking lot.

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn: # 521- “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

1 O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm for care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright:  
on you the high and lowly,  
through ages joined in tune,  
sing, “Holy, holy, holy,”  
to the great God triune.

4 New graces ever gaining  
from this our day of rest,  
we reach the rest remaining  
to spirits of the blest.  
We sing to you our praises,  
O Father, Spirit, Son;  
the church its voice upraises  
to you, blest Three in One.

#### Confession and Forgiveness

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C- Faithful God,  
have mercy on us.  
We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.  
We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.  
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.  
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.  
Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.  
Hear the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.  
**Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. <sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, <sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**Psalm: Psalm 23(read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.  
<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**  
<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn: #719 - "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"**

1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heav'n above  
shall come the city of our God.

## **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**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. And who else and what else shall the people of Milton Lutheran Parish pray for. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **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.

## Communion

### Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: #547 - "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Weekly Devotional - October 5-October 11

### Introduction

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share with others the abundant life of God. As we open ourselves to receive Christ in our hearts ... as we come willingly to the table, prepared to discard the old clothes of hatred, jealousy, and self-righteousness ... as we quit thinking we have to earn the ticket to the meal but willingly accept the banquet that has been prepared ... we are given a new wardrobe. We are dressed in Christ. We put on compassion, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, and love.



### Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

#### **Isaiah 25:1-9**

*The feast of victory*

#### **Psalm 23**

*You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over.*

#### **Philippians 4:1-9**

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

#### **Matthew 22:1-14**

*The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*

### Questions:

1. How and when have you received invitations from God?
2. Do you believe every person has received an invitation from God?
3. How might we extend God's invitation to others?

### Lord's Prayer

Bless one another saying: May God bless you this week and always. AMEN

Resources:

Opening prayer: [Sundaysandseasons.com](http://Sundaysandseasons.com)

Questions for discussion: [#workingpreacher](https://twitter.com/workingpreacher)