



## 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*

---

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

Forgiveness, it's one of those words that when we hear it, it makes us cringe a little. I'm sure each of us can share experiences with one another when we offered forgiveness to someone and it went well. We can also share times when we offered forgiveness and it didn't go so well. And if you are like me, I'm sure there have been times when you've sought forgiveness and received it or sought forgiveness and didn't receive it.

As Christians, forgiveness is one of those things that gets to the heart of our faith and belief. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins; we are to love God and love our neighbor as yourself. It's also one of the hardest things to do. This week we will spend some time talking about what forgiveness and isn't. We'll share stories with one another, and we will be brought back to both positive and negative memories.

As we explore this idea with each other, please know that there is no right answer, or right way of receiving or offering forgiveness. Instead, we focus on the one truth we can be sure of; the love and grace of God in our lives. This is the reminder that no matter how many times we get it right or wrong, God's love abounds, God's forgiveness abounds in our lives.

This week we continue with our weekly bible study on Wednesdays and Fridays, live on YouTube. We also continue to gather for prayer and communion on Thursdays at Christ from 8:00am-12:00pm. Parking lot worship will be on Sunday at 6:30 P.M. at Christ. I also have regular office hours on Tuesdays (At Trinity) and Thursdays (At Christ) from 8:00am-4:00pm.

For those that are coming to the parking lot service, you are invited to come early! Bring your dinner and take some time to be in fellowship with one another before the service begins. As we did this past Sunday, we encourage you to get up, walk around and greet one another. We ask that if you leave your vehicle to please wear a mask.

Online worship will be provided via live stream on YouTube, and we will be live streaming the parking lot worship for you to view. Please bear with us as we make adjustments to the technology to offer the best possible worship experience for our community.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Gary



## 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

### Sunday, September 13, 2020, Worship Bulletin Fifteenth 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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn: # 652- “Built On A Rock”

**1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.**

**5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."**

#### 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: Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13(read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.  
] <sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**  
<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

### **Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### **Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

### **Sermon**

## Hymn: #772-“Oh, That the Lord”

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
to keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
to know and do his will!

4 Make me to walk in your commands,  
'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my 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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. And who else and what else shall the people of Milton Lutheran Parish pray for. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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: #864 "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"**

**1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
joyfully your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore God's praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praises everlasting ring!**

**4 Angels sing in adoration,  
in God's presence, face to face.  
Sun and moon and all creation,  
all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Weekly Devotional- August 24-30

### Introduction

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.



### Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

- **Genesis 50:15-21**  
*Joseph reconciles with his brothers*
- **Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**  
LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (*Ps. 103:8*)
- **Romans 14:1-12**  
*Accepting diversity in the community of faith*
- **Matthew 18:21-35**  
*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

### Questions:

1. When was the last time somebody hurt you? How did that feel? (Gen.50:15-21)
2. All of us pass judgement at one time or another. How can you prevent it? (Rom 14: 1-12)
3. What keeps us from offering compassion and mercy to others when we have received so much? (Matt 18:21-35)

### 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: [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org)