



## 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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September 27, 2020

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

This may seem like a rhetorical question, but I'll ask it anyway. Have you ever met someone that the things they say do not match up with the things that they do? I'm sure this question has warranted a chuckle out of each of us. Of course, we have! Now a harder question. Have you ever struggled with articulating something that you believe and then actually putting that belief into action? Again, I'm sure each of us has done this at some point in our lives.

In our gospel message for this week (Matthew 21:23-32) Jesus is having a debate with the chief priests and the elders. He tells them the parable of the landowner and his two sons. One son he asks to work in the vineyard. The son initially tells him no, but ends up going to work in the vineyard. The other son tells him yes, but decides not to work in the vineyard. Jesus asks the chief priests and the elders which son did the will of their father. It's an easy answer of course, the son who did the work in the vineyard.

This week's passage reminds us of just how important it is to walk the talk. It reminds us that believing something and articulating that belief is not quite enough. We are also called, as followers of Jesus, to put that belief into action. As we approach a presidential election, as protests continue around our country, as we struggle to adjust to the realities of living in the midst of a pandemic. This passage speaks to us in very real ways.

My prayer for us this week is that we be reminded of how God calls us into Christian living, not just so we say the right things or believe the right things, but especially so we can make a positive difference in the world. So that each person we come in contact with can have an experience of God's love.

We continue to meet online and in person and you are invited to join us in whatever way you are comfortable with. We will be streaming our worship service live at 9:30 A.M. from Trinity on Sunday. Later in the evening we will have parking lot worship at 6:30 P.M. at Christ. Just a reminder that our parking lot worship time will change starting October 4<sup>th</sup>. Worship will begin at 4:00 P.M. We are also having a pet blessing that day and you are invited to bring your pets to worship.

For more information, please check out our parish website or either church Facebook page. As always you are welcome to contact me via e-mail or phone.

Blessings,  
Gary



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### Sunday, September 27, 2020, Worship Bulletin Seventeenth 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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn: # 712- “Lord, Whose Love”

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Lord, whose love in humble service<br/>bore the weight of human need,<br/>who upon the cross, forsaken,<br/>worked your mercy's perfect deed:<br/>we, your servants, bring the worship<br/>not of voice alone, but heart;<br/>consecrating to your purpose<br/>ev'ry gift which you impart.</p> | <p>4 Called by worship to your service,<br/>forth in your dear name we go,<br/>to the child, the youth, the aged,<br/>love in living deeds to show;<br/>hope and health, good will and comfort,<br/>counsel, aid and peace we give,<br/>that your servants, Lord, in freedom<br/>may your mercy know and live.</p> |
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#### 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: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

### **Sermon**

#### **Hymn: #674-“Let us Talent and Tongues Employ”**

1 Let us talents and tongues  
employ, reaching out with a  
shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is  
poured, Christ is spoken and  
seen and heard.

#### **Refrain**

Jesus lives again, earth can  
breathe again, pass the Word  
around: loaves abound! Jesus  
lives again, earth can breathe  
again, pass the Word around:  
loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us  
out bearing fruit in a world of  
doubt, gives us love to tell,  
bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

#### **Refrain**

## **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.*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. And who else and what else shall the people of Milton Lutheran Parish pray for. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. 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: #818 "Oh Master, Let Me Walk with You"

1 O Master, let me walk with you  
in lowly paths of service true;  
tell me your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broad'ning way,  
in peace that only you can give;  
with you, O Master, let me live.

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Weekly Devotional- September 21st-27<sup>th</sup>

### Introduction

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.



### Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

#### Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*The fairness of God's way*

#### Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

#### Philippians 2:1-13

*Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

#### Matthew 21:23-32

*A parable of doing God's will*

### Questions:

1. Do you ever become impatient for change? Impatient for what you want? What does Psalm 25 tell us about being patient and trusting God? (Psalm 25:19)
2. Have you had times when you were selfish, and self absorbed? What do the Philippians verses this week tell us about how to change that? (Philippians 2:1-13)
3. Is there something about Jesus' authority -- and his hesitancy to express it -- that is worth discussing? Can we distinguish the evidence of divine power in the midst of all that the powers of this world promise us? (Matthew 21:23-32)

### 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)