



Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church - 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Phone: 570-742-4601

Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish,

This week as a community of faith we continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark. This week's Gospel message is the story of Jesus calling the rest of his disciples. He instructs them to stop what they are doing and be "fishers of people".

A life of discipleship calls us to be intentional about our faith by responding to God's free gift of grace and sharing that gift with others. The good news is that God does not call us to be different from who we are made to be. Like the disciples, God calls us where we are, with what we are good at, to follow Jesus. My prayer for us this week is that we hear this call and find ways to live it out using the gifts that God has given us.

There are a few updates I'd like to share with you this week.

The first is that our office is working to send out annual giving statements for 2020. You should receive them in the mail later this week or sometime next week. If you do not receive one, please contact the office so we can fix the mistake. I also want to say a word of thanks for your giving. It's through your donations that we can accomplish our mission as a community of faith. 2020 proved to be a challenging year for all of us, but the grace of God prevails as we serve one another, worship, pray, and support one another.

The second update is that our Parish Council has decided to hire Seth Reitz as our Parish Digital Ministry Coordinator. Beginning on February 1st as the Digital Ministry Coordinator, Seth will be responsible for developing online worship media that is engaging and professional. He will also work with other forms of media to offer support for social media, bible studies, and other videos. Please join me in welcoming Seth as a member of the staff.

The third update is that Lent and Easter are just around the corner. Our leadership teams are hard at work planning, and there will be more information coming to you soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday on February 17th.

As always, if you need anything, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an e-mail.

God's Blessings,

Gary



We Warmly Welcome You to



Milton Lutheran Parish

Serving God through faith formation, worship,
service, evangelism, and fellowship.

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Traditional Service

LIVE Streamed from the Sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran at 9:30 a.m.
on the Milton Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

Visit <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/> to link to the LIVE worship

*Thank you for being here. Whether this is your first time here, or you have been with us for a while, please
know this . . . we are glad you have chosen to worship with us.*

(Bold italic items to be spoken)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

John Warfel



Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

John Warfel

*1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me"*

*5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all*

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Nancy Walters

A reading from Jonah chapter 3.



¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62: 5-12 Read Responsively

Nancy Walters

⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark the 1st Chapter.

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Hymn of the Day: You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

John Warfel

*1 You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow. Refrain*

Refrain

*Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.*

*4 You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.
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

Nancy Walters

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.



For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief (*especially*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Gary Schaeffer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;



beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement



grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

John Warfel

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!

*You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!*

*Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only!*

Lowly, holy!

*Great and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing!*

Rule and might o'er all possessing!

*6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!*

*He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!*

Amen! Amen!

Come, Lord Jesus!

Crown of gladness!

*We are yearning
for the day of your returning.*



Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

John Warfel

News and Announcements from the Parish

A Note from Pastor Gary . . .

A life of discipleship calls us to be intentional about our faith by responding to God's free gift of grace and sharing that gift with others. The good news is that God does not call us to be different from who we are made to be. Like the disciples, God calls us where we are, with what we are good at, to follow Jesus. My prayer for us this week is that we hear this call and find ways to live it out using the gifts that God has given us.

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This Week at Milton Lutheran Parish . . .

Sun., Jan. 24

Happy Birthday Kate Budman!

9:30 AM LIVE Stream Worship Service. Those who do not have access to the internet and are unable to watch the LIVE stream are invited to worship in the sanctuary during the service. Please contact Parish Office if you plan to attend so we can ensure there is enough space.

Wed., Jan. 27

Happy Birthday Bonnie Gaugler and Dave Walize!

Bible Study is Posted on the Website and Social Media

Sun., Jan. 24

9:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service. Those who do not have access to the internet and are unable to watch the LIVE stream are invited to worship in the sanctuary during the service. Please contact Parish Office if you plan to attend so we can ensure there is enough space.

Milton Lutheran Parish Leadership Team	
Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Parish Organist, Music Director	John Warfel
Sexton/Custodian	Chuck Stahl and Helen Billhime



Treasurers	Rich Handy and Carol Yost
Groundskeeper	Bob Greenly
Parish Council	Krisa Yaiko, President; Don Fisher, Vice President; Lynnette Weisner, Secretary; Rose Handy, Bill Heimbach, Donna Spear
Christ Council	Donna Spear, President; Tonya Wargo, Vice President; Penny Ulmer, Secretary; Rich Handy, Treasurer, Kellie Brouse, Kay Dunn, Don Fisher, Nancy Mensch, Nancy Walters
Trinity Council	Krista Yaiko, President; Jeff Coup, Vice President; Crystal Gnidovec, Secretary; Kate Budman, Kevin Fry, Bill Heimbach, Connie Stover, Dawn Russell, Cindy Trapani
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel, Don
Digital Ministry Team	Aaron Coup, Rick Coup, Seth Reitz, Stephen Moll, Donna Spear
Outreach Team	Connie Stover, Kay Dunn, Claire Weisner, Lynnette Weisner, Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, Krista Yaiko
Discipleship Team	Rose Handy, Ed Coup, Kate Budman, Kellie Brouse

Central Office Location: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847, 570-742-4601

Parish Office Administrator email: info@miltonlutheranparish.faith

Additional Campus Location: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Website: <https://miltonlutheranparish.faith/>

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our YouTube Channel to connect with us online.

CCLI License: A709164



Home Devotional- Jan. 25th- 31st

Introduction

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken, and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalms

Deuteronomy 18:15-20- *The prophet speaks with God's authority*

Psalms 111- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13- *Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols*

Mark 1:21-28- *The healing of one with an unclean spirit*

Questions for Reflection

1. When did you recently experience God's grace and mercy? (Ps 111:4)
2. How have you shared or experienced love that builds up? (1 Cor 8:1)
3. How does Jesus' divine authority help us reflect on the nature of today's political authority? (Mark 1:22, 27)
4. Paul speaks of sovereign freedom (1 Cor 8:9), similar to Jesus' authority to serve humanity. How can we do likewise?

Pray the Lord's Prayer Together

Bless one another saying:

May God bless you this week and always. **AMEN**

Resources: Opening prayer: Sundaysandseasons.com - Questions- Workingpreacher.org #AS008098

