



the good news is...

together, the impossible  
is possible

# MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRADITIONAL

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love &  
Service*

**MARCH 8TH 2026**

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAMED FROM THE  
SANCTUARY @ MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH @  
9:30AM ON THE MLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL. VISIT  
[HTTPS://MILTONLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG](https://miltonlutheranchurch.org) FOR  
LINK TO LIVE WORSHIP.





TODAY AS YOU ENTER THE  
SANCTUARY, PLEASE TAKE A  
MOMENT TO BE INSPIRED BY THE  
BEAUTY OF THE FLOWERS. THIS  
WEEK'S FLOWERS WERE  
GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:

*The Lilley Family*

**IN MEMORY OF ORVAL  
"BUTCH" SHRAWDER JR.**

We would like to give special thanks to our worship leaders.

**WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS**

**Pastor:** Gary Schaeffer

**Director of Music:** John Warfel

**Assistant Director of Music:** Nancy Walters

**Worship Asst:** Penny Ulmer

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Cheyenne and Sandy Loesser

**Communion Asst:** Kevin and Alison Metzger

In Person & LIVE streamed from the Sanctuary at Milton  
Lutheran Church at

9:30am on the Milton Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. Visit

<https://miltonlutheranchurch.org> to link to the LIVE worship.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Gracious God,

*have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*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.*

**HYMN: ELW 533 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**

**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.*

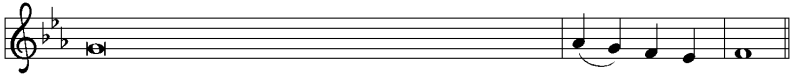
**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



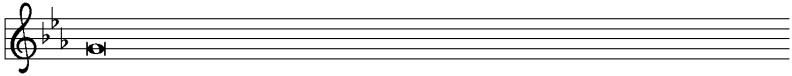
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



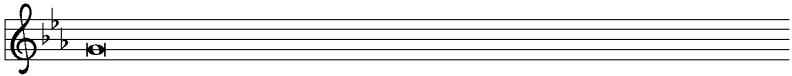
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## **Choir Anthem: “Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Psalm 115:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> O Israel, trust in the Lord!

He is their help and their shield.

<sup>10</sup> O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord!

He is their help and their shield.

<sup>11</sup> You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!

He is their help and their shield.

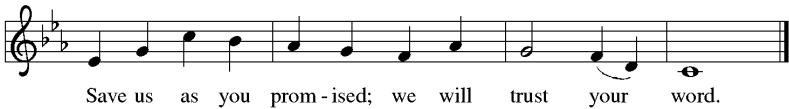
<sup>12</sup> The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us;  
he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of Aaron;

<sup>13</sup> he will bless those who fear the Lord,  
both small and great.

<sup>14</sup> May the Lord give you increase,  
both you and your children.

<sup>15</sup> May you be blessed by the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter. *Glory to you O Lord.*

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 6:32-44

<sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep

without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And all ate and were filled, <sup>43</sup> and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You O Christ*

**SERMON: “The Good News is... Together the Impossible is Possible”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 461 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

## Affirmation of Faith

*I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.*

*It sounds like welcome and feels like home.*

*It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.*

*It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.*

*I have seen it alive in the world.*

*And even when my heart aches,*

*even when wars rage,*

*even when mercy feels out of reach,*

*I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.*

*I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.*

*I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.*

*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

*Your mercy is great.*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. *Amen.*

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

### Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

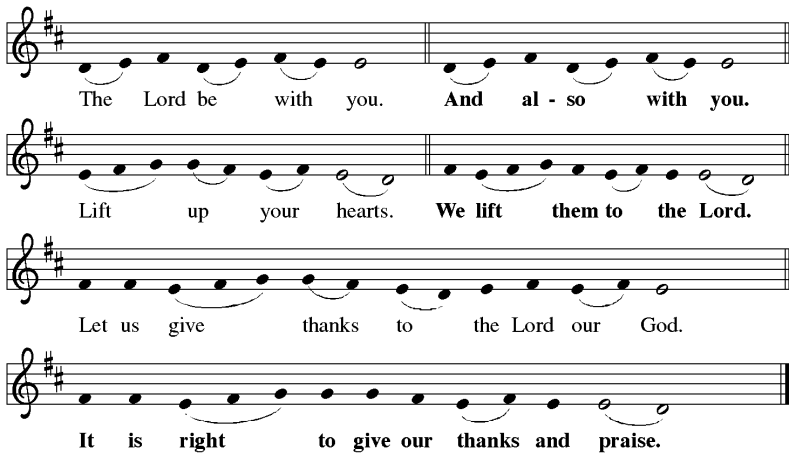
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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, *as we gather around this table to receive the gift of your grace, we offer ourselves to you. All that we have, everything we are, and everything we will be comes from you. We give you thanks, offer our time, gifts, and resources as people of God.*

*Trusting in your mercy and moved by your Spirit we ask that these gifts may be instruments of your love as we seek to love others. Amen.*

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of  
the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will  
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and  
ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



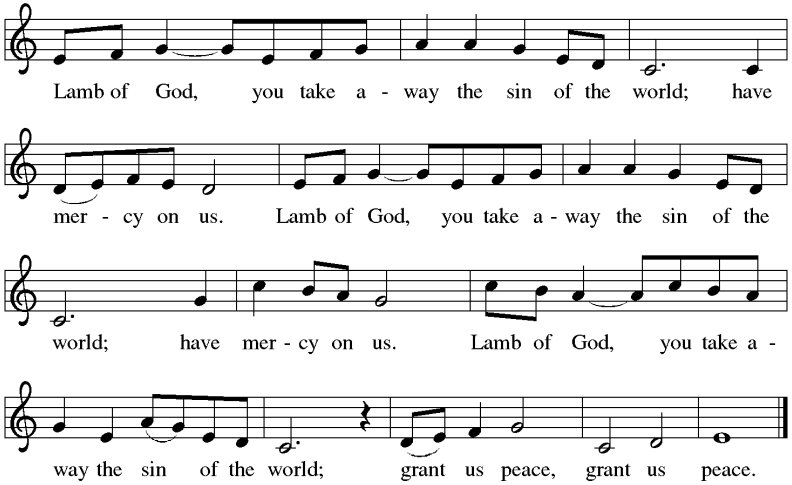
## LORD'S PRAYER

*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.*

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION SONG: I Am the Bread of Life

# I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the  
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, that . . .  
5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -  
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you  
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and if you  
I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -  
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -  
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his  
lieve . . . in . . . me, and e - ven . . . though you  
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

*Refrain*  
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

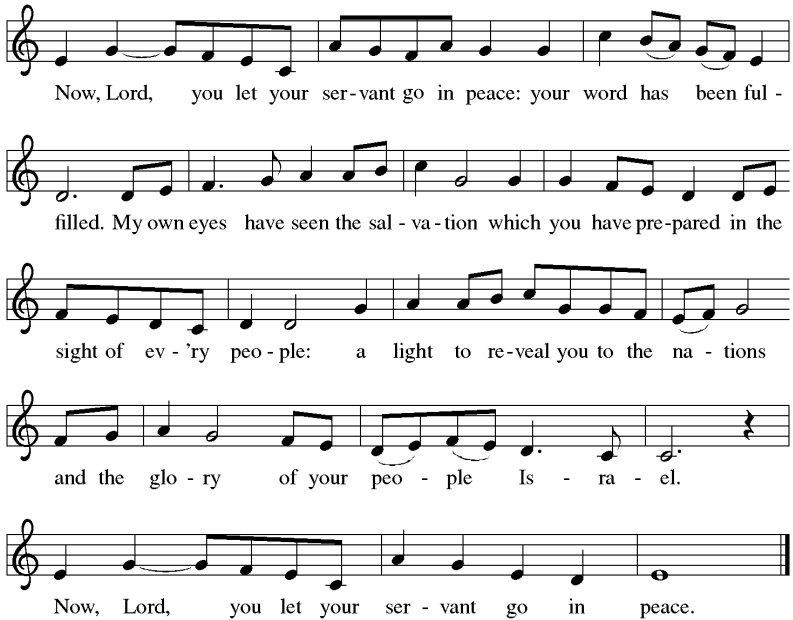
Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## COMMUNION BLESSING

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## BLESSING

May the God of creation bless our community, may Jesus the Savior open our hearts to all, may the Holy Spirit empower us with faith, creativity and stewardship to live and serve as people of God now and forever.

*Amen*

## CLOSING HYMN: ELW 618 "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

### SENDING

As we leave this place,

*When we meet anger, we speak with love.*

*When we meet fear, we speak with hope.*

*When we meet pain, we speak with gentleness.*

But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is

*love and justice for all.*

*It is joy that surprises,*

*and nonviolence that transforms.*

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will?

*Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.*

### Postlude



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL TO CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

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# Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 12:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M.

Friday- Sunday Office Closed

# Pastor's Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

*Please contact Pastor Gary to make an appointment.*

## Contact Us

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Pastor E-mail- [pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@miltonlutheranchurch.org)

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

# Prayer Requests



## **PRAYER LIST**

DIANNE PERRIN  
RUTH GREENLY  
TAD HAMPTON  
SUSAN EVANS  
KAREN MARTELLO  
KAREN ARRANTS  
JUDY COUP  
TRUDY FISHER  
GLEN DEWIRE  
CUFF GREINER  
LINDA VALIQUETTE  
JO HEDDINGS  
SARA AND ERNIE DELP  
ROSE DEANER  
FAMILY OF TERRY SCHOLL

## **HOMEBOUND**

MARY BILLHIME  
MARY AND MELVIN CRIST  
HELEN NAPP  
BARB ASHENFELDER  
CHARLIE STIGERWALT