



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Fostering Community through Faith, Love &
Service*

JANUARY 4TH 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.

TRADITIONAL

TRADITIONAL



**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:**

Gini and Michael Haar

**IN MEMORY OF SON, JOHN K.
SHOLENBERGER**

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

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 861 "When Long before Time"

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had

believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
 praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
 and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
 a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
 scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
 Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
 statutes and judgements to Israel.**

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st Chapter. *Glory to you O Lord.*

GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 510 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

APOSTLES CREED

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.*

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary,*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

He descended into the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

*and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great..

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

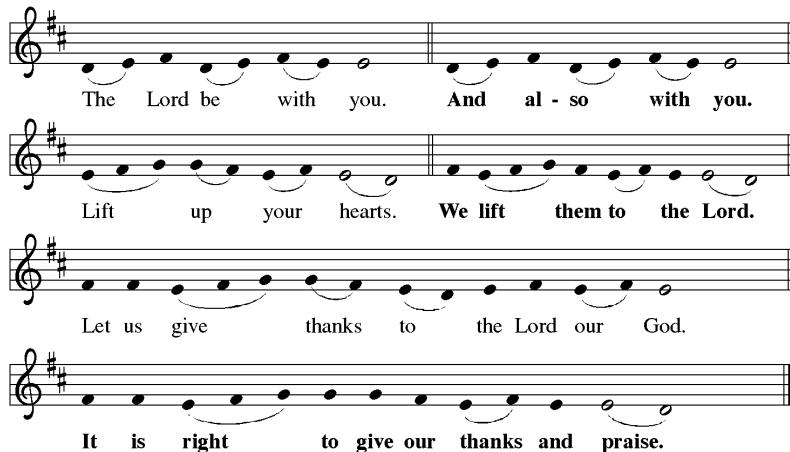
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 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.

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.

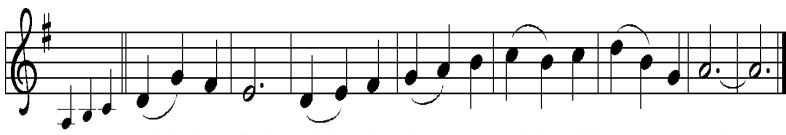
We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

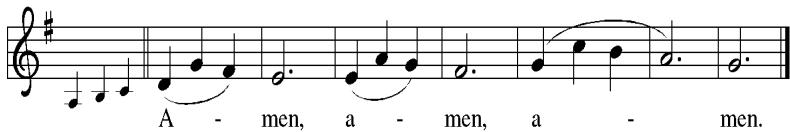
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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.



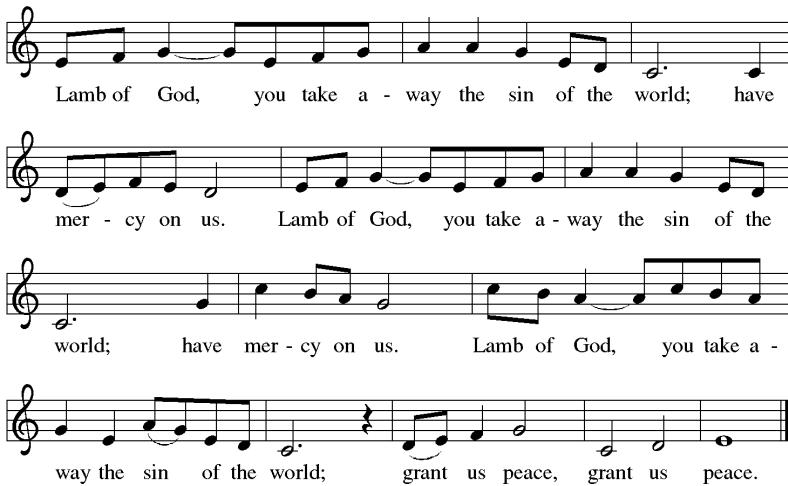
LORD'S PRAYER

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

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you -
 flesh of the Son of Man and . . .
 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, you shall . . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his -
 lieve . . . in . . . me, 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."

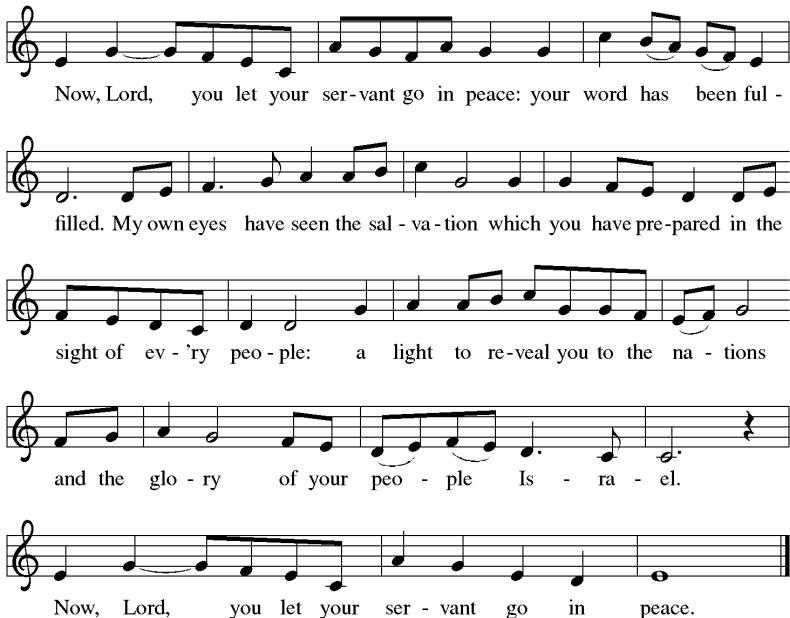
Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
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COMMUNION BLESSING

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: We Three Kings of Orient Are

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of Orient are; Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I; Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume breathes a Glo-rious now be-hold him a-rise, King and



gifts we tra-verse a-far, bring to crown him a-gain; owns a de-i-ty nigh; life of gath-er-ing gloom; God and Sac-ri-fice; field and foun-tain, king for-ev-er, prayer and prais-ing, sor-rowing, sigh-ing, heav'n sings al-le-ly



moor and moun-tain, fol-low-ing yon-der star. ceas-ing nev-er, o-ver us all to reign. glad-ly rais-ing, wor-ship-ing God Most High. bleed-ing, dy-ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. lu-ia: al-le lu-ia the earth re-plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright;



west-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

SENDING

Together we at the Milton Lutheran Church

Foster community through faith, love, and service.

Go forth in faith, to live out our mission.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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

SOURCES: Sundaysandseasons.com

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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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Prayer Requests

PRAYER LIST

DIANNE PERRIN
RUTH GREENLY
TAD HAMPTON
JUDY FARR
CINDY KOPYSCIAŃSKI
SUSAN EVANS
KAREN MARTELLO
VALERIE BARNWELL
KAREN ARRANTS
JUDY COUP
TRUDY FISHER
GLEN DEWIRE
CUFF GREINER
DONNA FREDERICK
LINDA VALIQUETTE
ERNIE DELP III
HOMEBOUND
MARY BILLHIME
MARY AND MELVIN CRIST
HELEN NAPP
BARB ASHENFELDER
CHARLIE STIGERWALT

