



MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fostering Community through Faith, Love & Service

JULY 19, 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.



OUTDOOR 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:**

Milton Lutheran Church

IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF LOVED ONES

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

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Gary Schaeffer

Interim Pastor: Vickie Brown

Director of Music: John Warfel

Assistant Director of Music: Nancy Walters

Worship Asst: Cindy Coup

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Cheyenne and Sandy Loesser

Communion Asst: Penny Ulmer & Connie Stover

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.

The Joy of God's Spirit: Bubbles and Laughter

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose love bubbles over with mercy, whose grace never runs dry, and whose joy fills all creation.

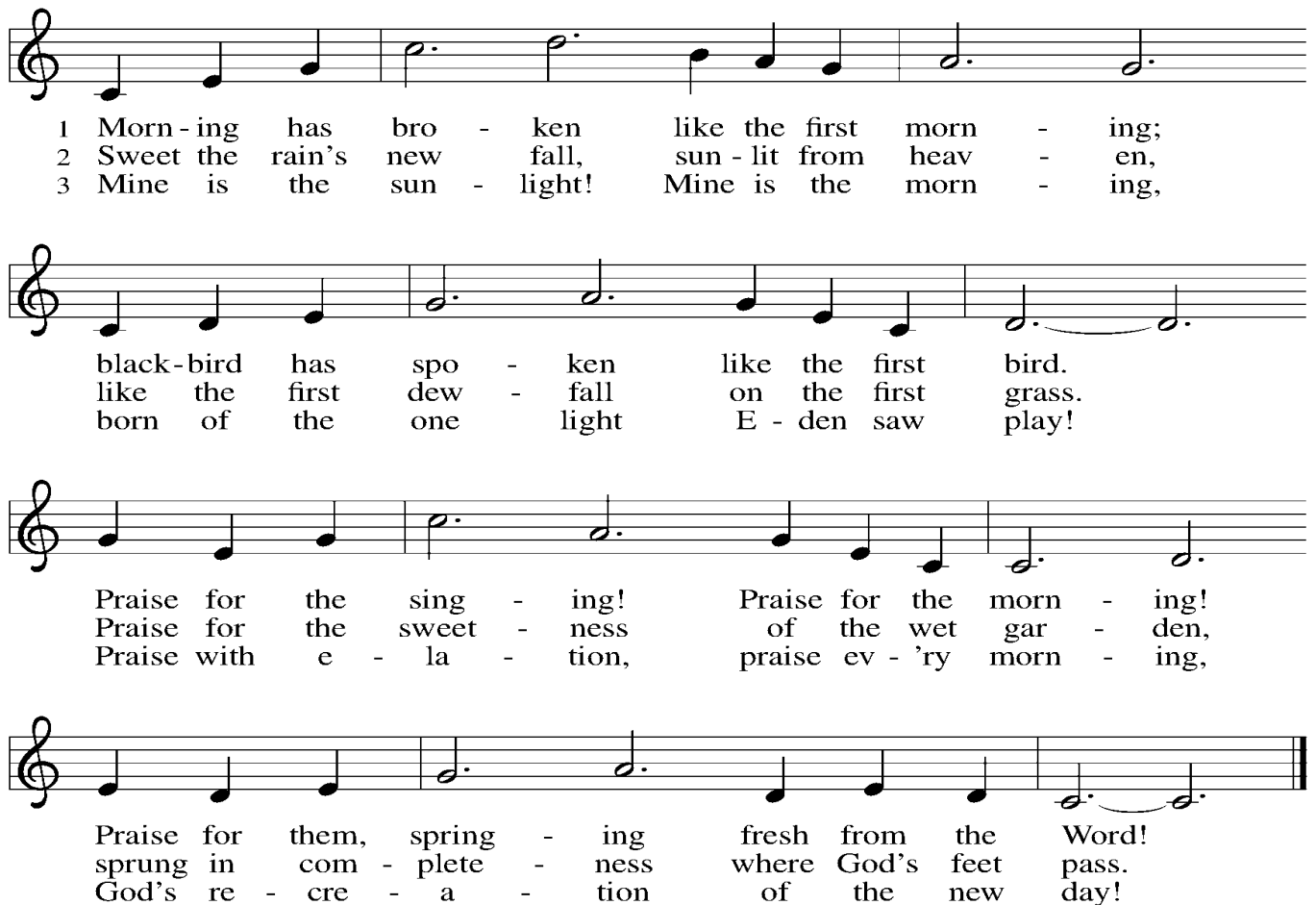
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we remember that God's grace surrounds us like bubbles carried on the breeze—beautiful, surprising, and freely given.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world. Through the waters of the flood you gave Noah a new beginning. Through the sea you led Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from sin and death and raise us to new life.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. Renew us in the covenant of our baptism. Fill us with joy, wonder, and laughter, that we may reflect your love to the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

HYMN: ELW 556 "Morning Has Broken"

Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of delight, you fill creation with beauty, our lives with unexpected blessings, and our hearts with laughter. Like bubbles dancing on the breeze, remind us that your Spirit is always moving among us, bringing wonder, hope, and joy. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1,4; Galatians 5:22-23;

¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Solo: "King of Kings"

Soloist: Chris Jones

Gospel Reading: John 3:8

⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 836 "Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken bove.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, who fills our lives with joy and sends us into the world with hope, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of joy, your love rises among us like bubbles dancing on the breeze, reminding us that your grace is always at work. Fill your Church with laughter, compassion, and courage, that we may joyfully share the good news of Christ with all people.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, you fill your world with beauty—from gentle breezes to fields in bloom and the simple delight of bubbles floating through the air. Help us care for your creation with gratitude and wisdom so that future generations may rejoice in its wonders.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, where nations are divided, communities are hurting, or families are broken by conflict, send your Spirit to soften hearts and build understanding. Teach leaders to seek justice, mercy, and reconciliation so that all people may live in peace.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of comfort, surround all who are burdened by illness, grief, loneliness, anxiety, or fear. When life feels heavy, remind them that joy is still possible, hope is never lost, and they are held securely in your loving embrace. We especially pray for those we name before you now, either aloud or in our hearts...

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of laughter, bless children whose wonder teaches us to see your kingdom with fresh eyes. Renew in all of us a childlike faith that delights in simple gifts, delights in one another, and trusts completely in your love.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of community, bless this congregation as we worship, serve, and grow together. May our welcome be as open as your table, our kindness as abundant as your grace, and our joy as contagious as laughter shared among friends. Help us reflect your light, just as bubbles catch the sunlight and sparkle with unexpected beauty.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of eternal life, we give thanks for all the saints who taught us faith, shared laughter with us, and now rejoice in your presence. Keep us steadfast in hope until we are gathered with them at your heavenly feast, where joy will never end.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God,
every good and perfect gift comes from you.
Just as bubbles catch the light and reflect unexpected beauty,
you fill our lives with moments of joy, hope, and wonder.

Receive these gifts we offer today,
along with our hearts, our hands, and our lives.
Bless them for the work of your kingdom,
that through this congregation your love may spread freely,
your welcome may reach all people,
and your joy may overflow into our community and beyond.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your heart.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,
gracious God.

You fill creation with beauty,
our hearts with hope,
and our lives with unexpected joy.
Like bubbles dancing on the breeze,
your grace surrounds us,
your Spirit moves among us,
and your love reaches farther than we can imagine.

In Jesus Christ,
you came among us
to share our sorrows,
celebrate our joys,
and gather all people into your embrace.

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 to 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.

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Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

COMMUNION BLESSING

Life-giving God,

Thank you for feeding us with Christ's body and blood.

Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may leave this place carrying hope,
sharing laughter,
offering kindness,
and reminding the world that your love is never in short supply.
Send us out to reflect your joy wherever we go.

In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

BLESSING

May the God who created laughter, the Christ who brings abundant life, and the Holy Spirit who dances through creation bless you and keep you...

Amen

HYMN: ELW 677 "This Little Light of Mine"

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

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 8:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.

Friday- Sunday Office Closed

Pastor's Office Hours

Thursday 4:30 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.

Please contact Pastor Vickie to make an appointment.

Contact Us

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Phone-(570) 274-6727

Website- <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

Prayer Requests

PRAYER LIST

RUTH GREENLY
TAD HAMPTON
JUDY COUP
WALTER SCHOLL
BILL WESNER
JOHN FARR
APRIL KEEFER
MICHAEL WEISNER

HOMEBOUND

MARY AND MELVIN CRIST
HELEN NAPP
CHARLIE STIGERWALT
DALE COCHRAN
NANCY WALTERS

