

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER SERVICE

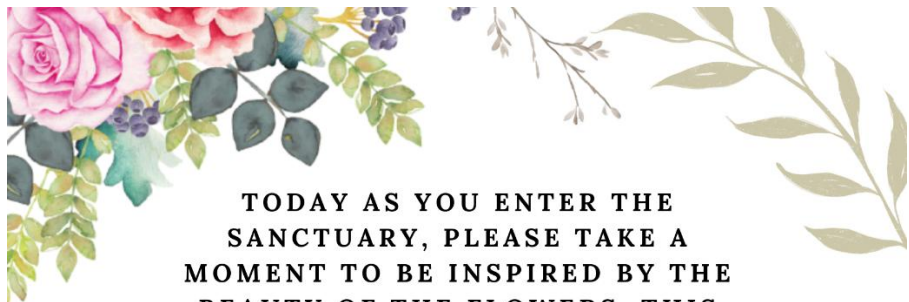
Fostering Community
through
Faith, Love, and Service



MILTON
Lutheran Church

APRIL 5, 2026





**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:**

**LYNNETTE WEISNER
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES**

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Gary Schaeffer

Director of Music: John Warfel

Assistant Director of Music: Nancy Walters

Worship Asst: Cindy Coup

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Carol Yost and Dave Campbell

Communion Asst: Lynnette Weisner and 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.

GATHERING MUSIC (SEE INSERT)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! ***Amen.***

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us especially the west
branch of the Susquehanna River Watershed.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you.
Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Rejoice, He Is Alive” accompanied by: Chad Miller, trumpet

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him

on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 28th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white

as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you O Christ.*

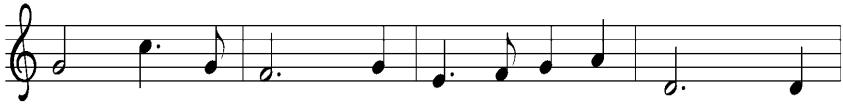
Video: “The Easter Connection”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN: “Lift High the Cross”

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
- 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
- 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for.

We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning.

We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave.

We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.

Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you.

Thank you for showing the world what could be.

Thank you for loving us with abandon.

Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy.

Thank you for the empty tomb.

Thank you for morning birdsong.

And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do.

Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world. The grave couldn't hold you. Death couldn't keep you. Instead, you are here and everywhere.

You are risen. You are on the move in the world. Your love meets us where we are and calls us out into the world.

And that is *good news*.

So on this Easter Sunday, this holiest of days, we ask for your help noticing you in our midst.

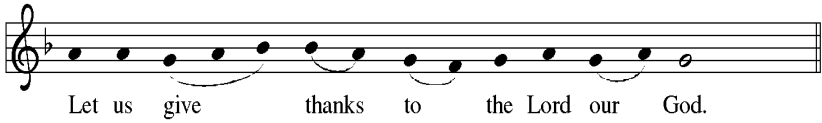
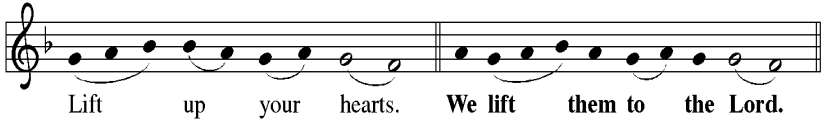
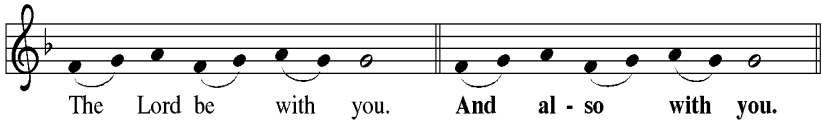
When our feet walk beside wildflowers, may we think of you.

When the stars light up the sky, may we see you.

When we break bread with our neighbors, may we feel you.

When a stranger acts with kindness and love, may we recognize you. ***Amen***

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should always 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,

setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.

Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise

you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.

Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise

you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup

we remember his life laid down and lifted up

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us

and these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless us to be a blessing.

Make us a sign of your faithfulness.

Send us to tend and cherish the earth

and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

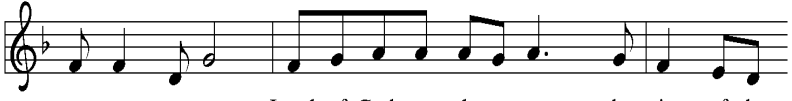
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen



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.

COMMUNION SONG: "Bread of Life from Heaven"

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



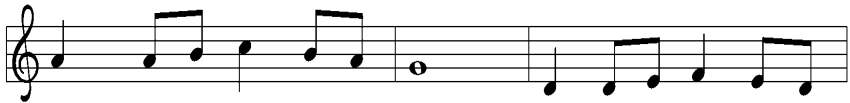
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
- 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



Refrain

sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

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*

HYMN: "I Know my Redeemer Lives"

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Based on Jb 19:25
Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.

DUKE STREET
Attr. to John Hatton, c. 1710–1793



1. I know that my Re - deem - er — lives!
2. Christ lives to bless me — with great — love;
3. Christ lives and grants me — dai - ly — breath;
4. Christ lives, all glo - ry — to his — name!



1. What joy this blest as - sur - ance gives!
2. He lives to plead for me a - bove;
3. He lives, and I shall con - quer death;
4. He lives, my Sav - ior, still the same;



1. Christ lives, he lives, who — once — was — dead,
2. Christ lives, my hun - gry — soul — to — feed;
3. Christ lives, my man - sion — to — pre - pare;
4. What joy this blest — as - sur - ance — gives;



1. He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
2. He lives to help in time of need.
3. He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
4. I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

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

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Prayer Requests

PRAYER LIST

DIANNE PERRIN
RUTH GREENLY
TAD HAMPTON
KAREN MARTELLO
KAREN ARRANTS
JUDY COUP
GLEN DEWIRE

THE FAMILY OF CUFF GREINER
SHARON GREINER

THE FAMILY OF ERNIE DELP
SARA DELP
ROSE DEANER

THE FAMILY OF TERRY SCHOLL
WALTER SCHOLL
HELEN BILLHIME

THE FAMILY OF MARY BILLHIME
THE FAMILY OF BARB ASHENFELDER

HOMEBOUND

MARY AND MELVIN CRIST
HELEN NAPP
CHARLIE STIGERWALT
DALE COCHRAN

