MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Fostering Community through Faith, Love, and Service

DECEMBER 24TH, 2024

11PM TRADITIONAL

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 TO WORSHIP!

Thank you for joining us today. Whether you've worshipped with us before or this is your first time, we want you to know that you are welcome. As Christians we recognize that each of us comes to worship just as we are. God loves us and so we love others, no expectations, no judgment, only acceptance grace, and love.

(Bold italic items to be spoken by congregation.)

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

Pastor: Gary Schaeffer

Director of Music: John Warfel

Assistant Director of Music: Nancy Walters

Worship assistant: Lynnette Weisner

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Ann Mellman and Cindy Kopyscianski
Communion Asst: Carol Yost and Penny Ulmer
Worship Setup: Helen Billhime

GATHERING MUSIC
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
SONG "O Come All Ye Faithful."



- 1 O come, all ye faith ful, joy ful and tri um phant! O
- 2 The high est, most ho ly, light of light e ter nal,
- 3 Sing, choirs of an gels, sing in ex ul ta tion,
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap py morn ing;





and be hold born the king of an - gels: come him, the Fa -Son of ther flesh ap - pear - ing! now in Glo -God in . . . the . . . high - est: ry to flesh ap - pear - ing: Word of the Fa - ther, in now

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

At the darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven." And with the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

CAROL OF PRAISE "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"



- 1 Hark! The her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new born king;
- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



and mer - cy mild. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled." peace on earth. in time be-hold him off-spring of a vir-gin's womb. late come, Light and life all ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. to he brings,



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Mild he lays his glo - ry by, join the tri-umph of the skies; Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty! born that we no more may die.



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!

born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: "And The Stars Sang"

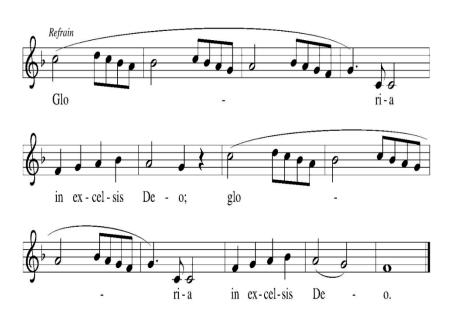
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,





The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 19th Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

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

SERMON "Something New"

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (ELW 279)



lit - tle town of 0 Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! gath - ered For Christ is born of y, and, all Mar a bove How si - lent - lv, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift giv'n! is ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us. we pray:



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by: while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n. So out our sin, and in, born in en - ter to - day. be cast us



thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. vet birth. 0 morn-ing stars, to geth - er pro claim the ho - ly No ear may hear his com - ing; but, this world of sin. in We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell:



hopes and fears of The all the years are met in thee to - night. God the king, and all and prais - es sing to peace to the earth! where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in. a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el! oh. come to us.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Let us Pray... Gracious God send your Christ into our midst.

Show us your pathways of love.

Grant that war may cease and divisions end and that the earth may be cared for and renewed.

Show us your pathways of peace.

Watch over all who are sick, mourning and in special need of your care.

Show us your pathways of hope.

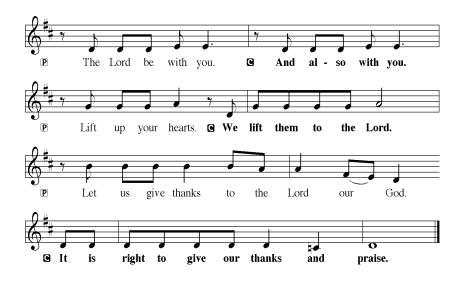
Fill our world with gladness at the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Show us your pathways of joy.

Lord, accompany us on our journey.

Give us wisdom and compassion to walk your pathways of faith, hope and love. Amen

DIALOGUE



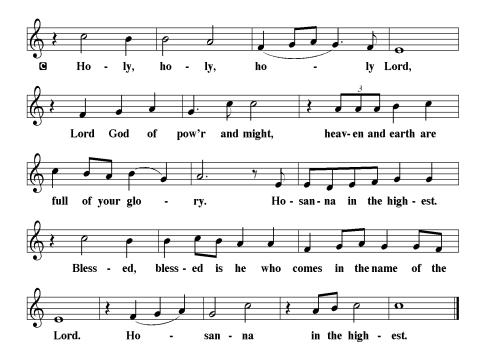
PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

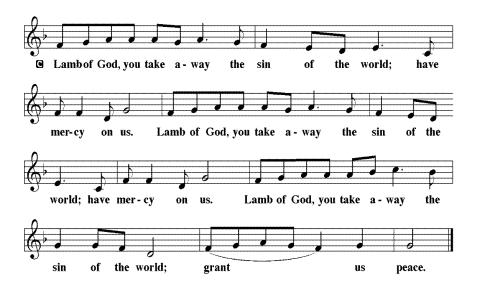
Give us this day our daily bread;

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



COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONGS:

"Es ist ein Ros' entsprugen" – Duet CarolAnn Miller and Bishop Craig Miller

"The First Noel" – Duet CarolAnn Miller and Bishop Craig Miller

COMMUNION BLESSING

God for whom we celebrate the birth of your son, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LIGHT COMES INTO THE WORLD: Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

CAROL OF LIGHT

Please have your candles ready. Ushers will come forward to light your candles while we sing.

Christ, Be Our Light



"Silent Night"







Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n-ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN- "JOY TO THE WORLD"



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



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SOURCES: Sundaysandseasons.com

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Church Office Hours

Monday- Thursday

9:00 A.M.- 2:00 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

Website- https://miltonlutheranchurch.org

prayer Requests **PRAYER LIST** JANIE BLOOM **BRANDY MCGEE**

RUTH GREENLY

THE FAMILY OF DAVE ROBINSON

DONALD POTTS

MARLIN THOMAS

KENNETH GAUGLER

AARON MURRAY

DENISE BAKER

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ERNEST DELP JR.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SARAMAE RADEL

MARK NOLDER

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF NANCY BROWN

TERRY SHULTZ

RICHARD SNYDER

HOMEBOUND

MARY BILLHIME

GERALD GREENLY

MARY AND MELVIN CRIST

HELEN NAPP

MARY ANN SOLOMON

BARB ASHENFELDER