



Millcreek Lutheran Church
April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Almighty God: You raised Jesus from the dead and inspired the early church to proclaim your truth! Establish us in the faith; that our witness may help others to believe without seeing, and live by faith in our risen Lord, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Guest Pastor,	Pastor Joel Risser
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Cheryl Batdorf
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds LBW# 143**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
 bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
 Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
 grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
 Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN. *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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*Greetings:

LBW p. 57, line 5

*The Kyrie

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast*

LBW p. 60

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

”The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16 (read responsively)

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names up-on my lips.**

⁵ O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

11 You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, **7** so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel: John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” **24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” **30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

When Thomas Heard from Jesus

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.

When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.

What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.

That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

Biblical References: Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; John 11:11-16; John 14:1-7;
John 20:19-29; John 21:1-7; Acts 1:12-14. Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

*The Nicene Creed

LBW p. 64

Choir Anthem

*The Prayers

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken) LBW p.68

***The Preface** LBW p.68

The Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy LBW p.69

***Words of Institution** LBW p.69

***The Lord's Prayer** LBW p.71

Communion of the Faithful

***Communion Blessing** LBW p.72

Post-Communion Canticle, *Thank the Lord LBW p.72

***Post-Communion Prayer** LBW p.74

***Closing Hymn** *Thine Is the Glory* LBW# 145

***Blessing:**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal** LBW p.74

Postlude



The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God, in memory of Larry Deiter by Nancy, and in honor of Cole Pennington's 23rd and Conner 26th Pennington's birthdays.



Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay,
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759



Our Mission:
Motivating Lives Through Christ and our
community, our congregation, & ourselves.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Frank Terhune
Cell: 610-751-5472

Email: frankterhune@gmail.com

In Office: Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

www.millcreeklutheran.com

Secretary: Jennifer Miller Email: secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

Lay Leader: Jennifer Rosengrant

Sunday, April 12, 2026

You can listen to the worship service over the phone patch at **10:15 AM**. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.



Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Community

A SPECIAL OFFERING: We will be collecting our quarterly donation for the Lower Susquehanna Synod on Sundays April 5th and April 12th.

Motivating Lives Through Christ and our Congregation

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS for 2026 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10.

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

Our Empowering the Future Capital Campaign is underway!

We want to express our appreciation for those that have already pledged. As you and your family prayerfully consider your gift, we ask that you complete the pledge form in its entirety by April 12th and designate on your check or electronic payment Empowering the Future Campaign for accounting purposes. Forms can be placed in the treasurer's box in office or given to David Engle. This is your opportunity to make a difference in the future vision of MLC!

SWEET SUNDAY: Sweet treats by Charmayne returns April 12th. Stop by after service!

SPRING FUNDRAISER

We will once again be holding a pulled pork dinner fundraiser on Saturday May 2, 2026, from 11am-1pm. Tickets are available after the service in the Narthex. We are asking each individual to sell at least 10 tickets. Our GOAL FOR 2026 is to SELL 450

TICKETS. Tickets are \$15 and include pulled pork, a roll, baked beans, cheesy potatoes and cookies. Sign-ups for event day help and cookies are on the table in the Narthex. We had a FUN time last year and look forward to another great day in 2026.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday April 12- communion service with Pastor Risser. Sweet Sunday by Charmayne
- Sunday April 19- communion service with Pastor Risser
- Sunday April 26- communion service with Pastor Risser
- Saturday May 2- MLC BBQ Fundraiser

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Ann Welling, Rm. # 238
Country Meadows
1800 Tulpehocken Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610

PRAYER LIST: Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week:
secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570. *Please provide updates when our prayers have been answered, so this list can be kept current.*

MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler	Liz Leibig
Portia Lindermuth	Brian Ream	Norm Sharp
Gerry Strickler	Stewart Wolf	Aaron Yiengst
Devon Yiengst	Michael Yiengst, Jr.	Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBERS:

Gary Beatty, friend of Debbie Hartman
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres' mother
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler
Alethea Grissinger, friend of Deb Buffington
Kevin Kochinsky, family friend of Stephanie Seldomridge
Pastor Frank Terhune
CMDR Stanley Kahl-USNR , Deployed ,Epic Fury for 60 Days
Ann Shallcross, sister of Stephanie Gahres
Kaylee Gordon, family member of Jamie Keener



It's time for our
32nd Annual Community Clothing Giveaway!
It will take place on
Saturday, April 18, 2026
from **8 am to 10 am.**

**Earlier in the week, donations may be left
at the main doors of the church,
which is under cover.**

Please come and encourage others to come on
Saturday, April 18, from 8 am to 10 am
to choose clothing in our basement.
There is something for everyone, no money is exchanged,
and everyone is welcome.

Richland Community Bible Church
215 South Race Street
Richland, Pennsylvania
(717) 866-2541



Get Well Soon

"For I will restore health to
you, and your wounds I will
heal, declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 30:17

We are collecting cards for Pastor Terhune while he recovers from surgery. Please drop cards in the Secretary mail slot or on the Secretary's desk, and we will deliver.

We will also be coordinating some meals for Pastor Terhune over the next 3 weeks.

If you would like to contribute a monetary donation, please see Jen Miller.

Thank you!

Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X
W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A
T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M
T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S
O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T
G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N
E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P
T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z
H N T F E K D P I A M I L B D
E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E
R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S
R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B

JESUS
MIRACLES
DOORS
TOUCHED

TOGETHER
SIGNS
LIFE
THOMAS

DOUBTING
SHOWED
HANDS
SIDE

RECORDED
BELIEVED
DISCIPLES
LOCKED