

# THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17



*Millcreek Lutheran Church*

*January 11, 2026*

*Baptism of Our Lord*

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, who publicly announced at Jesus' baptism that he is your Son: Make us responsive to his mission as your Servant; that the work of your Spirit through him might bring us into reconciliation with you. We pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Serving you this morning:**

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Jamie Keener
Lay Reader,	Julie Strickler
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

## The Service

### Prelude of Entrance

### Announcements

### Prelude of Preparation

### \*Confession & Forgiveness

LBW p. 56

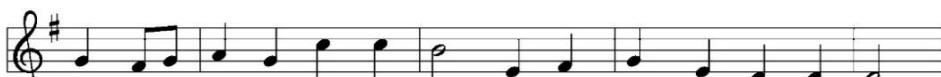
### \*Opening Hymn:

LBW (green) #82

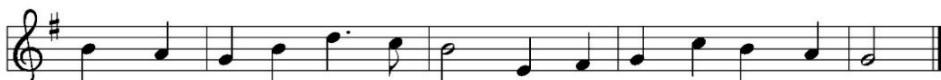
#### As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - listiest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

### \*Greetings:

LBW p. 57, line 5

### \*The Kyrie

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

### Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast*

LBW p. 58

### Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Children's Sermon

### First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street, <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

### Psalm 29 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
    ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;**  
    **worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
    the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;**  
    **the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
    the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**  
    **and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord  
    bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;**  
    **the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
    And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;**  
    **the Lord sits enthroned asking for evermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people;  
    give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

**\*The Alleluia Verse**

**LBW p. 62, line 14**

**\*Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

**The Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**

**NCH (red) #499**

**Shall We Gather at the River**

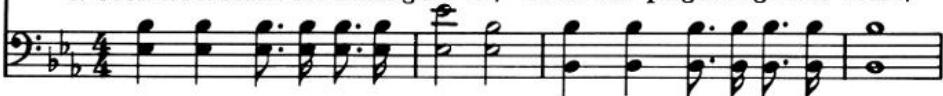
# 499 Shall We Gather at the River?

R. L.

Robert Lowry



1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod;
2. On the bos - om of the riv - er, Where the Sav - ior King we own,
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4. Soon we'll reach the shining riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?  
We shall meet, and sor - row nev - er 'Neath the glo - ry of the throne.  
Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.  
Soon our hap - py hearts will qui - ver With the mel - o - dy of peace.



*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gather at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.



**\*The Prayers**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our 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

**\*Blessing:**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn*****Go, My Children, with My Blessing*****Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.  
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."  
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh

Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

**Moments of Meditation (seated)****\*Dismissal**

LBW p.74

**Postlude**

*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and honoring Dotti Hoglund on her birthday, by Roy Hoglund.*



**Our Mission:**  
**Helping God restore & renew our community, our congregation, & ourselves.**

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

**Email:** [frankterhune@gmail.com](mailto:frankterhune@gmail.com)  
**In Office:** Tues. & Fri. 9am-12pm

[www.millcreeklutheran.com](http://www.millcreeklutheran.com)

**Secretary:** Jennifer Miller **Email:** [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com)  
**Lay Leader:** Jennifer Rosengrant

**Sunday, January 11, 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 YouTube.



### **Helping God Restore and Renew our Community**

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Central PA Blood Bank will host a Blood Drive at MLC on Thursday, January 15 from 11am – 7pm.

### **Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation**

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

**WEATHER ALERT:** In case of bad weather, please tune into Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen or WLBR 1270 radio station. When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Terhune will continue Bible Study on Tuesdays in January (weather permitting) at 1:00 and 7:00pm. The theme is From the Beginning: A look at the opening chapters of Genesis:

Jan 6	Creation	1 --2
Jan 13	The Human Condition	3 -- 4
Jan 20	A New Beginning	6 -- 9
Jan 27	Confusion and Hope	11 – 12

**FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE:** Our culture of Generosity/Strategic Planning Committee has been very busy this past year. We have been actively pursuing many options that will build a Foundation for the Future of Millcreek Lutheran Church. We have been working on a new mission statement, exploring cost cutting measures and additional income sources.

We would like for you to join us on Sunday January 11th in the sanctuary for our regular service which will be followed by a presentation by Josh Sheppard of Bright Eye Solar. (Phone patch will also be available for those unable to attend.) We have found an investment opportunity that has the ability to eliminate our future electric costs and provide a path to eventually replace our electric panels and boilers and upgrade our heating/cooling systems.

The format will be similar to the cell tower presentation, where Josh will share information on Solar, how Millcreek Lutheran can benefit and time for questions and answers. We will keep the meeting to 45 minutes to 1 hour. Two mini sessions will be held on Wed. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm & Wed. Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am for those who have additional questions. The mini sessions will be led by our committee (Roy Hoglund, David Engle, Steph Seldomridge and Jen Rosengrant). We encourage you to attend or call in.

**NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION** will be on January 25th. If you are interested in becoming a member of our church please reach out Pastor Terhune or Jen Rosengrant.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** We are looking to add 2-3 additional individuals to Council for 2026. If you have an interest in being part of a team guiding our congregation into the future, please reach out to a current council member for more information.

#### **UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:**

- Sunday January 11- Service in sanctuary followed by Solar presentation
- Sunday January 25- Annual Congregational Meeting following the service. Please plan to attend as we will be presenting our financials, the 2026 budget, installing new members, & voting on various items. More information to come.
- Sunday February 8- Souper Sunday soup collection for the food bank and Souper Bowl lunch following the service. Watch for the sign-up in the narthex if you would like to bring soup to share!

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#### **Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves**

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#### **THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:**

Mrs. Elaine Hemperly  
Linden Village, Stoy Cottage  
100 Tuck St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042

**PRAYER LIST:** Please make requests to Jen M. by noon Wed. each week:

[secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto: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:**

Peg Auman	Bryan Breidigam	Joe Buffington
Debbie Hartman	Violet Hepler	Liz Leibig
Brian Ream	Norm Sharp	Gerry Strickler
Stewart Wolf	Aaron Yiengst	Devon Yiengst
Michael Yiengst, Jr.	Greer Zellers	

#### **NON-MEMBERS:**

Mike Nelson, friend of Kristin Bender  
Gary Beatty,, friend of Debbie Hartman  
JoAnn Deahl, Brandy Gahres' mother  
Linda McMullan, sister in law of Greta McMullan  
Candy Hibshman, friend of Rachel Mock  
Jennifer Clinton, daughter of Renee & Layne Strickler  
Mitch Keath, relative of Mary Ream & Deb Buffington  
Louise Hainley, cousin of Debbie Tice  
Rich Leinweber, friend of Rachel Mock  
Renee Troutman, friend of Debbie Tice

# BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

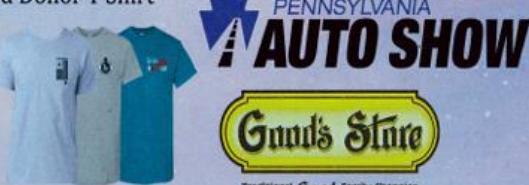
## Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

*In the Multipurpose Room*

**Everyone will receive:**

- 2 FREE admission vouchers to the Pennsylvania Auto Show
- Certificate for a \$10 coupon at any Good's Store
- Blood Donor T-Shirt



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to [717GiveBlood.org](http://717GiveBlood.org) & click on [DONATE NOW](#)
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code



*FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA*



A form of ID is  
REQUIRED to donate



- We kindly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-Ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.

# Resistance Movements

Herod plotting to kill. John at the riverbank. Peter in Jerusalem. Judas at the table. Thomas behind closed doors. Nicodemus in the night. Family at home. Crowds in the streets. Quite a collection, but merely a sampling of a much longer list. There are plenty in the pages of the scriptures, and in the circles of our daily rounds: they—we—who are wannabe followers and wannabe saboteurs, the well-meaning and the conspiratorial, neighbors we like, others we refuse to trust, family we put up with (or don't), coworkers we admire, mentors we respect, activists we fear, leaders we oppose. A lengthy list indeed. And this is what is shared among such a collection of souls: people standing in the way of, objecting to, arguing against Jesus. Road blockers.

Mystery floats in and over the murky baptismal ripples of the Jordan River. To this day, thousands throng to wade in those waters to receive, to remember, to renew, to celebrate baptism. Jesus came there too and was met by his cousin, the famous, wild, wandering baptizer, who tried to stop him. Make of John's protest what you will (humility, confusion, disagreement, panic, pride?), his inclination was to prevent Jesus' public repentance, Jesus' plain-to-be-seen-and-heard turning away from the expectations of the world order toward the divine imagination of God.

It is not always (more than likely rarely, though at times it surely is) evil intention that is the seed that grows to oppose God's invocation to take delight in merciful justice and breathe the spirit of righteousness. We clash, as John the Baptizer clashed (how often?), with heaven's hopes and blessings for all that God created in goodness, even as we are unmindful of our own dissent.

It is for *us*, in our moments and ways of objecting, that God—ever mindful of us—parts heaven's clouds, that we might see and hear the way of God's beloved Son.

# The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:13-17



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

GALILEE	HEAVEN	VOICE	LOVE	JESUS
OPENED	DOVE	JOHN	PLEASSED	SON
JORDAN	WATER	FULFILL	BAPTIZED	SPIRIT