



Millcreek Lutheran Church
March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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, we hope you will consider joining us- knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Eternal God: In the fear and grief we feel at death, you have come with the hope of life through your Son. Prepare us in our hearts for the joy and certainty of being raised into eternity by the power of your Son who is the resurrection and the life. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Serving you this morning:

Interim Pastor,	Pastor Frank Terhune
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Roy Hoglund
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Confession & Forgiveness**

LBW p. 56

***Opening Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

LBW #559

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he sets the pris - 'ner free.
5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the carth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul - est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

***Greetings:**

LBW p. 57, line 5

***The Kyrie**

LBW p. 57-58, line 6

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon

these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

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

Psalm 130 (read responsively)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

***Return to the Lord**

LBW p. 63

***Gospel: John 11:1-45**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved

him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* LBW #423

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

423

F B^b Am⁷ Dm F B^b F

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice Bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home - less; Still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, Till your love's re - veal-ing light

F B^b Am⁷ Dm F B^b F

Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, Worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 Still the cap - tives long for free - dom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 In its height and depth and great - ness Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,

F C Dm C Dm B^b maj⁷

We, your ser-vants, bring the wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens Your com-pas - sion bids us bear,

C Dm B^b F Gm⁷ Am Gm⁷ F

Con-se - crat - ing to your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 By your Spir - it send your pow - er To our world to make it whole.
 Stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

*The Nicene Creed

LBW p. 64

Special Music, *Julie Strickler on clarinet*

***The Prayers**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

***Blessing:**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

You Are the Way

LBW #464

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal**

LBW p.74

Postlude

You Are the Way



1 You are the way; through you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



in you, O Christ, has God re - vealed his heart, his will, his mind!
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615



*The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and
in memory of George & Gladys Tice.*



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, March 22, 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



Happy New Year! Our Relay for Life team, the Cancer Crusaders, are participating in multiple fundraising opportunities currently. If you have any questions, see team members, Deb Buffington, Deb Tice or Mary Ream.

Thank you for your support!

- Daffodil Days- Flowers will arrive March 25th.

MARCH GLADNESS: The congregation is asked to consider scoring a win for our ELCO neighbors by donating to the Sharing Cupboard food pantry during the month of March. This will be our 3rd year of committing to an entire month of giving. Items can be placed in the multi-purpose room. With thoughts of Easter meals, please consider the following: Canned sweet potatoes, canned pineapples, canned vegetables, Bisquick mix.

Other possibilities: Boxed potatoes, mac & cheese, dessert mix, box of crackers, package of pasta, canned soups, canned tuna, canned fruit, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, & perhaps a box of Jello.... There's ALWAYS room for Jello!!

MLC EGG HUNT will take place this year on Saturday April 4th at 11AM. We are collecting prize donations and egg fillers. Prizes should be for the ages of 0-12. All items donated can be placed in the back corner Sunday school room on the table. A list of suggested items will be on the table in the Narthex. Thank you again for all the donations so far- you all help make this Egg Hunt a huge success every year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Friday April 3rd we will sort prizes into age groups in the multi-purpose room. This can take a few hours depending on how many helpers we have. I am planning on being at the church around 12pm.

There is also a sign-up sheet on the table for volunteers to help the day of the egg hunt. I am looking for 12 volunteers which will include two people in each age group (6 groups). This includes guiding the kids to their assigned age group areas and also helping to hand out prizes. If you would like to help, please reach out to Nicole Johnson or Jen Rosengrant.

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.

EASTER SHUT-IN BAGS: Starting Sunday March 1st, the Easter bags will be in the Narthex until March 29th. A sign-up sheet will be on the table for volunteers to help deliver the bags to the shut-ins before Easter. If you have questions, please reach out to Jen Rosengrant or Nicole Johnson. Thank you.

SING IN THE CHOIR: In preparation for Palm Sunday & Easter, the choir will be rehearsing Wed. March 25 @ 6 pm. We welcome all, even if you are not a regular choir member!

READERS are still needed for Palm Sunday, March 29. See the sign up in the narthex or see Deb Tice.

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are excited to kick off our Empowering the Future Capital Campaign on Sunday March 22nd. We look forward to you joining us for a brief presentation after service!

SPRING FUNDRAISER

We will be holding a pulled pork dinner fundraiser on Saturday May 2, 2026, from 11-1. We will be distributing tickets by the end of March and looking for volunteers to help the day of the event. We had a FUN time last year and look forward to another great day in 2026.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- Sunday, March 22- Regular service. A brief Empowering the Future Capital Campaign presentation after service.
- Sunday, March 29- Palm Sunday communion service
- Wednesday, April 1- Lent service at St. Paul's UCC, Newmanstown, 7pm
- Thursday, April 2- Maundy Thursday service at MLC
- Friday, April 3- Good Friday service at Richland Community Bible Church, Richland, 7pm
- Saturday, April 4- Egg Hunt at MLC, 1030am registration, 11am egg hunt
- Sunday, April 5- Easter Sunday 10:15am communion service. (No Sunday school)

Motivating Lives Through Christ and Ourselves

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

Gerald Strickler
Lebanon Skilled Nursing & Rehab, Room #175
900 Tuck St.
Lebanon, PA 17042

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:

Bryan Breidigam	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
Family of Louise Hainley
Alethea Grissinger, friend of Deb Buffington
Kevin Kochinsky, family friend of Stephanie Seldomridge
Pastor Frank Terhune

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, Matthew: The Cross and Beyond, with Pastor Terhune will be at 1pm and 7pm on the following Tuesdays in March:

March 24: Last Days, Matthew 24 – 26

March 31: Death and Resurrection, Matthew 27 – 28

Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium LENTEN SERVICES

- Wednesday March 25
Tulpehocken Trinity Church, Richland, 7pm
Topic: Pure in Heart, with Pastor Wendy Buffington
- Wednesday April 1
St. Paul's UCC, Newmanstown, 7pm
Topic: Peacemakers, with Pastor Mario Madden
- Thursday April 2
Maundy Thursday service, MLC, Newmanstown, 7pm
- Good Friday April 3
Richland Community Bible Church, Richland, 7pm
Topic: Persecuted, with Pastor Frank Terhune
- Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:15am communion service at MLC.
No Sunday School.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



Roll the Stone Away

You can understand why they don't want to roll the stone away. "Already there is a stench," Martha says (John 11:39). Why open the grave? Why let out that smell? There could be no purpose. After all, Lazarus is dead.

This is not unbelief. "I believe that you are the Messiah," Martha says (v. 27), confident that her brother would one day rise again. But it is a faith that desperately wants God to provide an escape from suffering and struggle: "If you had been here," both sisters say, "my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32). The presence of Jesus, they think, should protect them from pain and death.

What they don't understand, though, is that the places of pain and suffering are exactly where Jesus goes. He enters dead places to bring hope to life. He transforms the stench of decay into an aroma of thriving. He summons Lazarus out of the tomb to walk into freedom.

This is why Jesus tells them to take away the stone. He wants to open the place that they are convinced holds only grief, and to expose what they believe to be a shameful smell. Yes, it is difficult to face. However, only when the grave is opened can Lazarus respond to Jesus' call. Martha and Mary must remove the stone that hides what they do not want to bear, so that new life can emerge from the tomb.

What are the stone-covered places in your life? What are the places in your heart that you are convinced hold only pain, decay, and fear? In the tender love of Jesus, you do not need to hide them. Jesus is calling you to open them. He will enter these places with resurrection power, transforming death into life and shame into glory. Facing these tombs takes courage. But you can trust that Jesus will bring healing to your brokenness. He is in the business of calling the dead back to life. Let the stones be rolled away.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



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

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP