

Millcreek Lutheran Church
March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday

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: Gracious Father, whose Son allowed himself to be treated as a criminal that we may be treated as sinless: Reveal the depth of love which Jesus expressed through his passion; that we may open our hearts to his rule over our lives. 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,	Dara Wolfe
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

***Blessing of the Palms:**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with you upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:**

The Palms

The Palms

1. O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay Are strewn this day in
 2. His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might Once more their free - dom
 3. Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem, Of all thy songs sing

fest - i - val prep - a - ra - tion, Where Je - sus comes, to wipe our tears a - way;
 gain from deg - ra - da - tion; Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right,
 the e - man - ci - pa - tion; Thro' bound - less love, the Christ of Beth - le - hem

RESPONSE

E'en now the throng to wel - come Him pre - pare. Join, sing His name di - vine,
 While those in dark - ness find re - stored the light. Join all, and sing Ho - san - na!
 Brings forth the hope to thee for - ev - er - more. Join all, and sing Ho - san - na!

Let ev - 'ry voice re - sound with u - nit - ed ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho - san -
 Praised be the

na! Praised be the Lord, Bless Him who cometh to bring us sal - va - tion.
 Lord, Ho - san - na! Bless Him who cometh to bring us sal - va - tion.

Prayer of the Day (read in unison)

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem: He Comes in the Name of the Lord

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm 31:9-16 (read responsively)

- ⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- ¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- ¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, "You are my God.**
- ¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.
- ¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to

be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

*Sequence Hymn ***On My Heart Imprint Your Image*** **LBW #102**

*Gospel: The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew
(see The Passion booklet)

Hymn of the Day ***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*** **NCH #555**

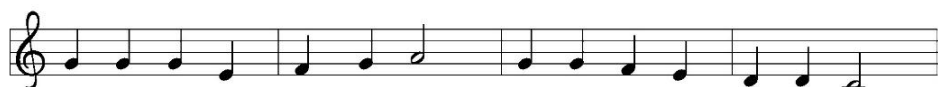
On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

555 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux
Trans. by James W. Alexander

Hans Leo Hassler
Arr. by J. S. Bach

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weigh - ed down,
2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer - ed Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est friend,

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns Thine on - ly crown:
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er; And should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and go - ry, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee. A - men.

*The Nicene Creed

LBW p. 64

Choir Anthem: *Humble Cross*

*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.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us 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 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** *Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty*

***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.**

Moments of Meditation (seated)

***Dismissal** LBW p.74

Postlude

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes Ho - san - na cry;
2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die!
3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons of the sky

O Sav - iour meek, pur - sue thy road With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
Look down with sad and wondering eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh:
The Father on his sapphire throne
Expects his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power and reign.

Henry Hart Milman, 1791–1868 a.

The temptation of the church from the New Testament on has been to make Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and Palm Sunday a day of earthly triumph, but, as the American theologian William Stringfellow says so well, "Easter is the day of triumph." He goes on to say that Palm Sunday "represents in the ministry of Christ the same temptations with which he was confronted by the power of death during his forty days in the wilderness."

Though the church often succumbs to the temptation to triumphalism, it knows better in its liturgy and hymnody. This hymn is one of the best examples. Like the reading for the passion narrative on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, this hymn is about Christ riding on in lowly pomp to die.

Source: Paul Westermeyer in *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Commemoration

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men & women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.



Today we recognize Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771–1824), Norwegian Lutheran lay minister and spiritual leader known for his significant influence on a revival of Pietism within Lutheranism. He was born on April 3, 1771, in Østfold, Norway, and became a prominent figure in the early industrialization of the country. Hauge preached about personal repentance and the living faith, which inspired widespread revival across Norway and among Norwegian immigrants in America. Despite facing persecution for his beliefs, including imprisonment for over eight years, Hauge's teachings laid the groundwork for modern Norwegian society and continue to resonate in contemporary Christianity.



The flowers & bulletins are given in honor & glory of God and in honor of the Sunday School teachers and their commitment to Christian education



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 29, 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

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.

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

Our Empowering the Future Capital Campaign kicked off last week!

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!

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, 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:

Violet Hepler
Stone Ridge Poplar Run
450 E. Lincoln Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

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
Family of Louise Hainley
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

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, Matthew: The Cross and Beyond, with Pastor Terhune
will be at 1pm and 7pm on the following Tuesdays in March:
March 31: Death and Resurrection, Matthew 27 – 28

Newmanstown-Richland Ministerium LENTEN SERVICES

- 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.
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



His Blood Be on Us

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.

The Triumphal Entry

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"
Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV).



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

KING	JERUSALEM	LORD	BRANCHES	VILLAGE
DISCIPLES	FOAL	BLESSED	SPOKEN	FULFILL
GENTLE	MOUNT	HOSANNA	COLT	RIDING
CLOAKS	JESUS	DONKEY	PROPHET	OLIVES