



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PRINCIPAL: Scott Johnson

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"Always Better"

AS WE GATHER We try to exercise our freedom and planning, but God's way is always better. It was better for Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament Reading and gets Mary's attention in the Gospel. It was still taking some time for the new believers of Colossae to fathom that God had done so much for them in Christ. And when their friends found the treasure of the Gospel, they, too, must have laughed that God had such gracious plans for them, plans that are always better than they imagined.

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

"Blessed Assurance"

Vs.1 *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.
O what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

Vs. 2 *Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

Chorus *This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

(Chorus)

Vs. 3 *Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

(Chorus)

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Colossians 1:21–22; Psalm 27:14

Pastor: And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

People: Christ has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death,

Pastor: in order to present you holy and blameless

People: and above reproach before Him.

Pastor: Wait for the LORD; be strong,

People: and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word

People: **and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (Galatians 6:14) “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

SONG

“The Old Rugged Cross”

Vs. 1 *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Vs. 2 *To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me someday to my home
far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.*

Chorus **So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it someday for a crown.**

(Chorus)

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APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 18:1-14

And the Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he

had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰ The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING Colossians 1:21-29

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

GOSPEL READING Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

SONG OF THE DAY "Trust And Obey"

Vs. 1 *When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way.
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.*

Chorus ***Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.***

Vs. 2 *Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.*

(Chorus)

Vs. 3 *Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.*

Chorus *Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Vs. 4 *Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go. Never fear, only trust and obey. (Chorus)*

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING *During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"

Vs. 1 *'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His Word,
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus says the Lord."*

Chorus **Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him. How I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus. O for grace to trust Him more.**

Vs. 2 *O how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.*

(Chorus)

Vs. 3 *I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.*

(Chorus)

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in celebration of 46th wedding anniversary of Jim & Jackie Jackson.

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of Grace Lau by Shawn, Laurie, Molly and Bethany Schultz.

Individuals and/or businesses interested in sponsoring donuts for our CAFÉ? No need to worry about pickup – we will handle getting the donuts, coffee, milk and juice. For more information, contact Dawn Teske 715-536-7693.

Trinity ELC Garage Sale Fundraiser

Join us for our fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall: **Sept 4–6, 8:00 AM–6:00 PM**

Donation Drop-Off: Sept 2–3, 8:00 AM–6:00 PM at Trinity Church

We're accepting clean, usable items (clothing, kitchenware, toys, books, tools, etc.). No TVs, cribs, car seats, or broken/dirty items, please. Label your totes if you'd like them returned. Stickers from previous sales must be removed.

Volunteer Sign-Up:

Please sign up in the Narthex to help with the Trinity Block Party being held at the MARC on Sunday August 17th from 12:00-3:00

