



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452  
715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

August 10, 2025 - 10:30 AM  
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**PREACHING TODAY IS PASTOR JONATHAN CHAPA**

**AS WE GATHER** Jesus: The Traveling Teacher: In His earthly life, rather than staying in one place and having His learners come to Him, He went from place to place with disciples or followers who listened to the truths He taught as they went along. Walking with Jesus was the greatest of blessings! Whether we hear the Gospel teachings of our Lord in the same setting week by week and year by year or find ourselves in a variety of worship locations and settings, we, too, find blessing in hearing Him as did His first followers. The hymn writer Sigismund von Birken invites us simply: "Let us ever walk with Jesus" (LSB 685:1). May we be blessed in our walking and in our listening today!

**PRE-SERVICE:**     **"Blessings"**  
                          **"Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)"**

(Praise Team) **#47 Key of C**  
(Praise Team) **Key of D**

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Good God Almighty"**

**#60 Key of D**

**Vs.1**   *I can't count the times  
I've called Your name some broken night  
And You showed up and patched me up  
Like You do every time  
I get amnesia I forget that You keep  
coming around  
Yeah ain't no way You'll ever let me  
down*

**Vs.2**   *You say Your love goes on forever  
That Your mercy never stops  
So why would I assume  
You'd be somebody that You're not  
Like sun in the morning  
I know You're gonna be there every day  
So what on earth could make me be  
afraid*

**Chorus**   ***Good God Almighty  
I hope You'll find me  
Praising Your Name no matter what  
comes  
'Cause I know where I'd be  
Without Your mercy  
So I keep praising Your name at the  
top of my lungs***

**(Chorus & Bridge 1)**

**Bridge 2**   *Praise Him in the morning  
Praise Him in the noon time  
Praise Him when the sun goes down  
Love Him in the morning  
Love Him in the noon time  
Love Him when the sun goes down*

**(Chorus & Bridge 1)**

**Bridge 1**   *Tell me is He good (He's good)  
Tell me is He God (He's God)  
He is Good God Almighty*

**Bridge 3**   *Jesus in the morning  
Jesus in the noon time  
Jesus when the sun goes down  
Jesus in the morning  
Jesus in the noon time  
Jesus when the sun goes down*

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalms 34:1–4, 8, 22*

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Pastor: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

People: **I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

Pastor: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

People: **The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have given in to anxiety and have not always put our trust in God and His gracious provision for our lives. We have not always been good stewards of the many gifts that God graciously gives us and have focused on keeping things for ourselves rather than sharing them with others. We have missed opportunities to share the love of Christ with those around us and have not sought out the best for the people of our family circles, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We pray our God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, to lead us into lives of growing faith and increasing charity, and finally to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: God is faithful and keeps His promises of full pardon for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, granting mercy and forgiveness for those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I 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. Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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 (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”*

## SONG

## "Holy Water" #63 Key of D

**Vs.1** God I'm on my knees again  
God I'm begging please again  
I need You  
Oh I need You  
Walking down these desert roads  
Water for my thirsty soul  
I need You  
Oh I need You

**Chorus** Your forgiveness  
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips  
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears  
Like holy water (on my skin)

**Vs.2** Dead man walking slave to sin  
I wanna know about being born again  
I need You

Oh God I need You  
So take me to the riverside  
Take me under baptize  
I need You  
Oh God I need You oh

### (Chorus)

**Bridge** I don't wanna abuse Your grace  
God I need it ev'ry day  
It's the only thing that ever really  
Makes me wanna change  
Repeat 2X

### (Chorus 2x)

**Ending** Yeah it's like holy water on my skin  
Oh it's like holy water

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## NICENE CREED

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

## SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who

seek him. <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. <sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

## GOSPEL READING    **Luke 12:22-34**

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup> “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

## SONG OF THE DAY

**“Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)”**

**#6 Key of D**

**Vs.1** You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep my faith will stand

**Chorus** **And I will call upon Your name**  
**And keep my eyes above the waves**  
**When oceans rise**  
**My soul will rest in Your embrace**  
**For I am Yours and You are mine**

**Vs.2** Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now

**(Chorus)**

**Interlude** Oh, You are mine. Oh.

**Bridge** Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Saviour  
*(Sing Bridge 3 Times)*

I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

## MESSAGE

### ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) *“Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)”*

*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](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://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

✠ WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE ✠

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION SONGS

**“Just As I Am” #15 Key of D**

**Vs.1** Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise  
God  
Just as I am

**Vs.2** Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each  
spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**Vs.3** Just as I am I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
O Lamb of God I come I come

**Chorus-(Sing twice)**

**Chorus** I come broken to be mended  
I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued  
I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned

**Ending** Praise God just as I am

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***“The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me” (Instrumental) #51 Key of G***

## COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

### CLOSING SONG

**“Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)” #56 Key of D**

**Vs.1** By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made  
And by the breath of His mouth the heavenly host  
He gathers the deep and stores them in place  
The foundations were formed the moment that He spoke

**Pre-Chorus 1** It was all at His command  
So we stand in awe of Him

**Chorus** **Great is Your steadfast love**  
**Great is Your steadfast love**  
**Forever You're reigning in beauty and splendor**  
**Here in the waiting Lord You are the great reward**  
**How constant Your goodness**  
**How steadfast Your love (for us)**

**Vs.2** The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him  
Those who hope in His word won't be put to shame  
His promise will stand for all generations  
And our hearts will be glad for we trust in His name

**Pre-Chorus 2** And His wisdom never ends  
So we stand in awe of Him

**Chorus** Great is Your steadfast love  
Great is Your steadfast love  
Forever You're reigning in beauty and splendor  
Here in the waiting Lord You are the great reward  
How constant Your goodness  
How steadfast Your love (for us)

**Bridge** We have seen and we believe  
In Jesus Christ the love of the Father  
And as we wait we trust and praise  
His holy name for there is no other  
(Repeat)

**(Chorus)**

**Tag** How constant Your goodness how steadfast Your love  
How constant Your goodness  
How steadfast Your love for us

**Ending** Oh how steadfast Your love for us

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**The radio broadcast is sponsored** in loving memory of Jim Downing by his friends  
**The flowers on the altar** are sponsored by Willie & Karen Schult in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Trinity Merrill Annual Block Party NEXT Sunday, August 17 | MARC**

You're invited to our Annual Block Party next Sunday, August 17th at the MARC  
The day will begin with a community worship service at 10:30 AM, followed by Block Party festivities from 12:00–3:00 PM. This fun-filled afternoon will include:

- Food Trucks
- Raffle Baskets
- Bingo with Prizes
- Grampa's Farm Petting Zoo
- Appearances from Merrill Fire and Police Departments, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Army
- And, much more!!
- Giant Bubbles
- Inflatables

**There will NOT be an 8:00 AM or 6:00 PM service. Join us at the MARC at 10:30 instead.**



**Trinity ELC Garage Sale Fundraiser**

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

**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. **Please sign up in the Narthex to volunteer to help.**



We appreciate and give thanks to our Cafe volunteers for their commitment to Trinity and to what God is calling them to do in our church to build His Kingdom. Serving coffee and donuts attracts members, encourages bonding and stimulates growth. CAFE volunteers welcome worshippers by serving coffee, orange juice, milk, and donuts before and after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM worship services. We are grateful for their dedication to Trinity!