

BLOCK PARTY

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ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR: Scott Gustafson • ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jonathan Chapa

MARC - Smith Center

August 17, 2024 - 10:30 AM

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREACHING TODAY IS PASTOR JONATHAN CHAPA

AS WE GATHER Each of God's people has a special life story. The book of Jeremiah contains the messages of a prophet whose calling to speak the Word of the Lord brought him great distress and many difficulties. Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah lived out his life faithfully in challenging historical times. Places associated with him and his life can still be seen by travelers to Jerusalem, including the cave pit where he was imprisoned and the grotto where, according to tradition, he wrote the book of Lamentations. God gave Jeremiah the ability to carry out his mission, saying: "Behold, I make you this day a fortified city . . . and iron pillar" and promised him: "I am with you . . . to deliver you" (Jeremiah 1:18–19). Our lives will experience very difficult times. Times that seem as if God has forgotten or abandoned us. But the truth is, God is always working through faithful people in each generation to bring us the treasure of His Word proclaimed faithfully to this day. That transmitted sacred Word merits our most careful and thoughtful listening! We are glad you're here.

PRE-SERVICE:	"Holy Water"	(Praise Team)	#63 Key of D
	"Open Up the Heavens"	(Praise Team)	#4 Key of Bb
	"You Cannot Be Stopped"	(Praise Team)	#74 Key of E
	"Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)"	(Praise Team)	#85 Key of D

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG **"Lead On Good Shepherd" #81 Key of F**

Vs.1	<i>Well I've been turned 'round But I've never been lost Seen the water get troubled But we walked across When my knees were shaking You held my hand Turning my problems To a promised land</i>	<i>That just up and moved Glory glory hallelujah Yeah that's my song Walking with my Father Into the great unknown</i>
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(Chorus)

Chorus **Lead on Good Shepherd**
I'll follow all my days
There ain't nothing sweeter
Than to watch You make a way
You've walked me through the valley
But You never steered me wrong
So lead on Good Shepherd lead on

Bridge *Step by step day by day
Lead me on Lord I pray
Road gets dark walk by faith
Lead on Good Shepherd
Repeat*

(Repeat Chorus and Bridge)

Vs.2 *Seen some mighty deep canyons
That You brought me through
Seen some mighty big mountains*

Ending *Lead on Good Shepherd
lead on Good Shepherd
Lead on Good Shepherd
lead on Good Shepherd
Lead on Good Shepherd lead on*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 119:89-94*

Pastor: Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

People: **Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast..**

Pastor: By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants

People: **If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.**

Pastor: I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

People: **I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.**

Silence for reflection on our sinful condition and the promises of God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we do things we ought not do and do not live up to our calling as Your people. We are not always careful listeners to Your Word and take for granted those who faithfully proclaim it to us. We know that we justly deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. But trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is solely in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and lead us to renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and not only hears our prayers but He joyfully restores us to His fold. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, 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. Grant, merciful God, pardon and peace to Your faithful people as they cling to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. With Your abiding care, make us fully able to avoid all wickedness and deceit. By Your grace, grant us every needful thing for this life and every blessing in the life to come; through the same 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, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

SONG **"Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)"** **#85 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)*

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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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 **Jeremiah 23:23-29** *(The prophets bring words of warning from God.)*

²³ "Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream but

let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:23-12:3 (*Running the Christian race*)

¹¹ ²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

¹² ¹Therefore, 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, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

VERSE Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b

Pastor: Alleluia.

People: Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD? What has straw in common with wheat?

GOSPEL READING Luke 12:49–53 (*Jesus speaks of His purpose of being on earth.*)

“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

"Blessings"

#47 Key of C

Vs.1 We pray for blessings
We pray for peace comfort for family
Protection while we sleep
We pray for healing for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
To ease our suffering
And all the while You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us
lesser things

Chorus 1 'Cause what if Your blessings come
through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
And what if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise

Vs.2 We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel
You near
We doubt Your goodness
We doubt Your love
As if ev'ry promise from Your Word is

not enough
And all the while You hear each
desp'rate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe
(Chorus 1)

Bridge When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not this is not our home

Tag It's not our home

Chorus 2 'Cause what if Your blessings come
through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is a revealing of a greater thirst
This world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life
The rain the storms the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise

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ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) "Blessings" #47 Key of C

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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and BACKPACK BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

“Hallelujah Feeling” #82 Key of F

Vs.1 *Some days I climb the mountains
Some days I touch the clouds
Some days my best friend
Has been the cold hard ground
There's mercy new each morning
Comfort through the night
My eyes are fixed on Jesus
And I'm gonna be alright*

Chorus *I got that hallelujah feeling
down in my soul
I got that hallelujah feeling
and it won't let go
I've been born again yes and amen
No matter what comes I know
I got that hallelujah feeling
down in my soul*

Tag *Hallelujah hallelujah*

Vs.2 *Oh just because it's raining
Doesn't mean the sun won't shine
There's a season for the struggle
And a season for the prize
But my hope is never fading
'Cause it's anchored in the truth
My Father goes before me
And His joy will see me through*

(Chorus)

Tag *Hallelujah hallelujah (Repeat)*

Bridge *When everything is shaking
Got that solid rock like pavement
I might bend but I'm not breaking
(1st) I know who's on my side
(2nd) The Lord is on my side*

(Chorus)

Tag 1b *Hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah*

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in celebration of the 26th wedding anniversary of Roger & Rebecca Hinner.

Trinity ELC Garage Sale Fundraiser Sept 4–6, 8:00 AM–6:00 PM daily

Join us for our fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall downstairs at church.

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.**

Dear Trinity Families, As we launch a new school year, I want to thank you for your faithful support and prayers. Our staff has worked hard to prepare classrooms, curriculum, and hearts to welcome students back with Christ-centered learning. This year's theme is "Let's Make a Joyful Noise!" (Psalm 98:4), and we are excited to explore what that means in every aspect of school life. We ask for your continued prayers for our teachers, students, and families. Please feel free to stop by, say hello, or get involved—you are always welcome in our school ministry. May God bless this new beginning! ~ Principal Scott Johnson

Trinity Lutheran School Launches Operation Christmas Child Project

Bringing Joy—and Jesus—to Children Around the World

At Trinity Lutheran School, we believe that even the smallest hands can make a big impact. This fall, we are excited to begin a school-wide mission project that will reach far beyond our classrooms and community. Through Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, our students and families have the opportunity to shine the light of Jesus into the lives of children across the globe—one shoebox at a time.

Our goal is simple but powerful: pack 100 shoeboxes filled with love, joy, and the hope of Christ. Each box is a chance to tell a child they are seen, valued, and deeply loved—not just by us, but by their Savior. As our student's sort, pack, and pray over these boxes, they'll also be learning powerful lessons—about generosity, compassion, and the mission Christ calls us to: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

We invite you to be part of this meaningful mission. Let's come together as a school and church family to bless **100 children**—and perhaps even more—with the love of Jesus.

To make this vision a reality, we need your help. Over the course of September and October, we'll be collecting different types of items each week to fill the shoeboxes. Congregation members can drop off donations in the box at church. Here's how you can get involved: Stay tuned for weekly reminders, supply lists, and updates. Let's pack these shoeboxes full of hope... and send them off with hearts full of love. Contact the school office or Principal Scott Johnson with any questions.

Together, we can show the world that God's love fits perfectly in a shoebox.