



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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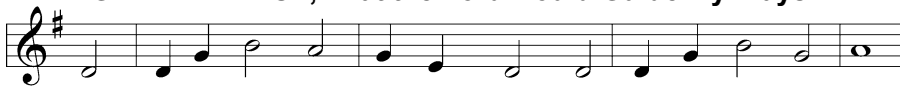
Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

September 7, 2025 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

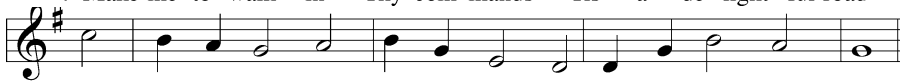
Preaching for us today is Pastor Jonathan Chapa

OPENING HYMN “Oh, That the Lord would Guide My Ways”

LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat-utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin-cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict-er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com-mands—'Tis a de-light-ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do-min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for-get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of-fend a-gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

A In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

KYRIE

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria in Excelsis”

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



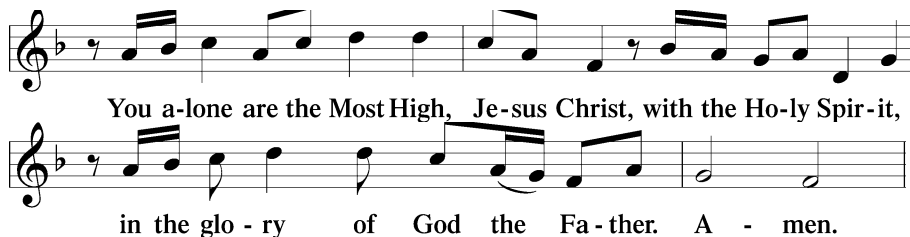
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



SALUTATION

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, ¹⁷ then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-35

- A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fourteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of

peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “O God, My Faithful God”

LSB 696



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing;
 3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
 What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
 Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
 And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
 That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
 But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
 Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
 The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
 Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
 And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5. Let me depart this life
 Confiding in my Savior;
 By grace receive my soul
 That it may live forever;
 And let my body have
 A quiet resting place
 Within a Christian grave;
 And let it sleep in peace.

6. And on that final day
 When all the dead are waking,
 Stretch out Your mighty hand,
 My deathly slumber breaking.
 Then let me hear Your voice,
 Redeem this earthly frame,
 And bid me to rejoice
 With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

- C 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.

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME / OFFERING/ SPECIAL MUSIC *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.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

8:00 AM SOLO “*The Lord’s Prayer*” by Mark Knorr

6:00 PM THE LORD’S PRAYER

- C 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.

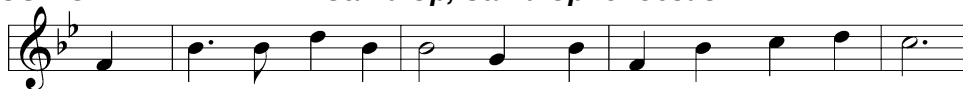
BENEDICTION

- P 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.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LSB 660



- 1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



- Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van-quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt. Tune: George J. Webb, 1803–87 Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in celebration of the 48th Wedding Anniversary of Dick & Ann Stoeckmann

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of the heavenly birthday of Lenore English and for the blessing of family by Crystal & Brent Duwe.

New Fall Bible Study: You're invited to join the Sunday 9:15am Bible Class starting September 21 as we explore the book of Ecclesiastes! Is everything really "vanity"? Are we living "under the sun," or "under the Son"? Bring your Bible to the Fellowship Hall at church and let's discover what King Solomon says to us today! Please call the church office to sign up so that we have enough materials for everyone.

LWML Fall Rally -The Trinity Ladies Aid and Dorcas Society would like to invite the women of Trinity to the Zone 6 LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Fall Rally that we are hosting on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. with the rally beginning at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee of \$5.00 will provide you with rally materials and includes a luncheon which concludes the rally. The rally will feature devotions, a Bible Study on "Prayer", and a guest speaker. We hope many ladies will join us for a day of learning and Christian fellowship! Questions or to pre-register: Please call Diane Schult at 715-722-3401.

Youth Lake Day -September 14th - 2-6pm - Alexander Lake - 6-12th Grade

- Come join us for a fun day out on the lake with pontoon rides, swimming, beach games, food, and lots of fun!
- Sign-up to participate is necessary so we can plan ahead for drop off, pickup, and boat rides.
- Contact DCE Steph Chapa with any questions at dce@trinitymerrill.com or 320-510-4862.



The Holiday Choir is Back! Rehearsals will begin on September 10th @ 6 p.m. in the Choir Room and thereafter will be held weekly each Wednesday at 6 p.m. It is open to anyone high school age or older. Plan now to come and join us as we praise the Lord through our music. Call Vicki at 715-536-2626 for questions.

Trinity Lutheran School Launches Operation Christmas Child Project -

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. A list of items being collected is on the bulletin board in the narthex. This next week we are collecting: Personal Care Items: such as....toothbrushes, comb, washcloth, nail clipper, water bottles.

New monthly Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - Living and Leading as a Man of God

- First Study is Saturday, October 18 (next study will be November 15)
- 3rd Saturday of the month 730 a.m. breakfast, Bible Study from 8-9 am, Church basement
- Led by Pastor G or Pastor Jon

It doesn't matter if you're 25 or 75, it's not always easy being a Christian man in our society. Whether it's your role at work, or in your family, you face unique obligations, responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities. The good news is that, regardless of where you are in your walk with Jesus, you are not alone. Please join our new Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, where you'll spend time with other men of the congregation, enjoy breakfast and a coffee, and leave inspired by fellowship and a casual, pastor-led bible study on real-life topics relevant to men. You'll be done by 9 am and ready to kick off your weekend with a renewed purpose of what it means to be a man of God. In order to plan for the meal, please reserve your spot by calling/texting Mike Milligan at 920.265.7488 or email at mike@millipad.net, or Jesse Severt at 715.218.9351 or jessesevert@outlook.com.

TRINITY YOUTH UPDATE

Middle School Youth We will meet once a week our youth grades 6-8 gather together for a time of faith, fun, and fellowship! This is always a fantastic time where we connect and grow along with one another with games, snacks, and time in God's Word. Join us Wednesdays at 3:30pm in the Youth Room, located in the lower level of Trinity Church! Bring your friends!

High School Youth Calling all youth grades 9-12! Join us on the first and third Sundays of every month from 7-9pm in the youth room. In this group, we dive deeper into God's word, practicing leadership skills, and exploring how to share our faith as we go out into the world. Youth nights include games, snacks, Bible study, and some spontaneous adventures!

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Trinity Congregation,

The halls are once again filled with laughter, learning, and the love of Christ. Our students are settling into routines and building relationships that reflect the grace and truth we strive to model. Chapel services have been a joyful highlight, and we love seeing students lead in prayer and song. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission—it is a privilege to teach God's Word daily. Your support makes Christian education possible. Please keep our school in your prayers as we enter the heart of the first quarter. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays at 8:10 for chapel in the church sanctuary. ~ Principal Scott Johnson