



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

**September 21, 2025 - 10:30 AM**

**AS WE GATHER** The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be “the people of God” amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God’s Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God’s mercy, grace, help, and love. So, we gather here for Divine Service, that is, God attending to our real needs. We come to repent of our sin and failure, and to receive forgiveness and new life and hope. That forgiveness and hope comes solely from the God who “loved the world” so much “that He gave His only Son” to die for you (John 3:16). We do not have to wait and wonder until the Day of Judgment. By your Baptism into Christ, by His mighty and reliable Word of forgiveness spoken over and into you, and by your connection with the Word made flesh, you are being delivered from all evil, redeemed, restored, and forgiven for everlasting life in the kingdom of God already here and now.

**Pastor Scott Gustafson will lead us in worship today.**

<b>PRE-SERVICE:</b>	<b>“Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)”</b>	(Praise Team)	<b>#85 Key of D</b>
	<b>“Song in my Soul”</b>	(Praise Team)	<b>#41 Key of D</b>

## WELCOME & GREETING

**OPENING SONG** “Rising” **#28 Key of D**

**Intro** *From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down  
Let the Name of the Lord be praised  
(Repeat)*

**Vs.1** *We've gathered to worship  
Becoming a choir to sing Your praise  
Lifting our voices  
Joining our hearts in this house today  
People of God in the power of God  
For the Kingdom of God we sing*

**Chorus** *From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down  
Let the Name of the Lord be praised  
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down  
Let the Name of the Lord be praised  
From the sky to the depths  
From the east to the west  
We give You praise*

**Vs.2** *We're gathered to go out  
To cities and towns  
We'll take Your Name into the nations  
Shining Your light in the darkest place  
People of God in the power of God  
For the Kingdom of God we live*

**(Chorus)**

*We give you praise*

**(Chorus)** (Sing Twice)

**Ending** *We give You praise  
Lord, we give You praise  
We give You praise  
From rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down  
Let the Name of the Lord be praised*

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**BAPTISM** Today we are excited to announce the baptism of Wrenley Ruth Beyer, daughter Nathan & Rachel Beyer. Wrenley's sponsors are Kaitlin Sczygelski & Matthew Beyer

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 43:4; 113:7

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: The Lord raises the poor from the dust

People: **and lifts the needy from the ash heap.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the light of God's holy Commandments.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

People: **Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "You shall not murder."

People: **Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

People: **Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or accused. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I proclaim to you His Word: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ 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 God, Your Word both condemns and heals, and Your judgments reveal our desperate need as well as Your gracious love for all. Give to Your church the clear vision of Your mercy and grace, that we may be instruments of Your saving peace; 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 (1 Timothy 1:15)

*"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*

## SONG

## ***“Your Presence Is A Promise”***

**#55 Key of E**

**Vs.1** *You are with me  
You are for me  
You're not leaving  
So I'm not folding  
When shadows hover  
You're still right here  
You are my cover  
I will not fear  
I will not fear*

**Chorus** ***Like the stars You will shine  
Brighter with the night  
Even in the darkness  
Your presence is a promise  
In the valley I know  
You won't let me go  
Even in the darkness  
Your presence is a promise over me  
Your presence is a promise over me***

**Vs.2** *In my weakness  
You're my courage  
You will guard me  
You're my fortress  
Your word is steady  
My solid ground  
You've never left me  
You won't start now*

**(Chorus)**

**Bridge** *You've always been there for me  
You'll be there every time  
Your Spirit is my vision  
Your promise is my sight  
My God is ever faithful  
Your word has taught me well  
I will not fear the future  
If You're already there  
(Repeat)*

**(Chorus)**

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## APOSTLES' CREED

**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

**Ezekiel 2:8- 3:11**

<sup>8</sup>“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup>And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. <sup>4</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>5</sup> For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>6</sup> not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup> But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup> Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup> Moreover, he said to me, “Son of

man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup> And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SECOND READING

**Ephesians 4:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 9:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

### SONG OF THE DAY

**"Grateful"**

**#64 Key of A**

**Vs.1** *This is the day that you have made  
Whatever comes I won't complain  
For all my hope is in your name  
And now your joy awaits my praise*

**Chorus 1** *I give thanks for all you have done  
And I will sing of your mercy and  
your love  
Your love is unfailing Lord I am  
grateful*

**Vs.2** *When I was down you brought me out  
And set my feet on higher ground  
So here I stand you are my God  
Your faithfulness my solid rock*

**(Chorus 1)**

**Chorus 2** *I give thanks for all you have done  
I won't forget all the battles you have  
won  
Your love is unfailing Lord I am  
grateful*

**Bridge** *And as we lift our hands  
The heavens open heavens open  
So let our lives declare  
The love our God has spoken over us  
(Repeat)*

**(Chorus 1 & Chorus 2)**

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## MESSAGE

**ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) “Grateful” #64 Key of A**

*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 THE CHURCH & 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**

**CLOSING SONG**

**“I Refuse” #35 Key of D**

**Vs.1** *Sometimes I  
I just want to close my eyes  
And act like everyone's alright  
When I know they're not  
This world needs God  
But it's easier to stand and watch  
I could say a prayer and just move on  
Like nothing's wrong but I refuse*

**Vs.2** I can hear the least of these  
Crying out so desp'rately  
And I know we are the hands and feet  
Of You oh God  
So if You say move  
It's time for me to follow through  
And do what I was made to do  
And show them who You are

**Chorus** 'Cause I don't wanna live like I don't  
care  
I don't wanna say another empty  
prayer  
Oh I refuse to  
Sit around and wait for someone else  
To do what God has called me to do  
myself  
Oh I could choose not to move but I  
refuse

**(Chorus)**

**Bridge** To stand and watch  
The weary and lost cry out for help  
I refuse to turn my back  
And try and act like all is well  
I refuse to stay unchanged  
To wait another day to die to myself  
I refuse to make one more excuse

**Chorus (Sing Twice)**

I refuse I refuse

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**Today's radio broadcast** is sponsored in loving memory of Jim Downing by his friends  
**The flowers on the altar** are in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Darrel & Melissa  
Dengel

**New Fall Bible Study:** You're invited to join us on Sundays at 9:15am 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. Questions or to pre-register: Please call Diane Schult at 715-722-3401.

**On October 5 there will be a special door collection for Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corners.**  
**Journeys had a flood on August 9 due to heavy rain. Watch your October newsletter for more information.**



## Trinity Lutheran School Launches Operation Christmas Child Project

Bringing Joy—and Jesus—to Children Around the World

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.

Over the course of September and October, we'll be collecting different types of items each week to fill these shoeboxes. Congregation members can drop off donations in the Christmas box at church. 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 week we are collecting Clothing & Accessories like socks, flip-flops, mittens, hats, hair ties, undergarments and also Games & Activities like jump ropes, cards, small puzzles, stickers, coloring books.** *Together, we can show the world that God's love fits perfectly in a shoebox.*

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

- The first Study is Saturday, October 18 (the next study will be November 15)
- The study will be on the third Saturday of each month. There will be a breakfast at 7:30, followed by the Bible study from 8-9 am. The study will take place in the fellowship hall in the basement at church
- This study will be led by either 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 or texting Mike Milligan at 920.265.7488 or email at [mike@millipad.net](mailto:mike@millipad.net), or Jesse Severt at 715.218.9351 or [jessesevert@outlook.com](mailto:jessesevert@outlook.com)

**The Holiday Choir is Back!** Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m as we praise the Lord through our music. Choir is open to anyone high school age or older. Call Vicki at 715-536-2626 for questions.

**LADIES AID-** The Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. We will be planning the Fall Mission Rally which will take place October 11, 2025.

**Ladies.....Diane Kreager's Bible study will start on Thursday, October 15, at 1:00 pm in the church basement. Our new study is called, "The God of All Comfort" - lessons about hope in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7.**



**THANK YOU,  
SOUND SYSTEM,  
LIVE STREAM, AND  
PROJECTION  
VOLUNTEERS!!**

We are so thankful for all of Trinity's volunteers! This month, we especially want to thank those who faithfully serve with our sound system, live stream, and projection. Your behind-the-scenes work is essential in helping our worship services run smoothly and allowing God's Word to reach both our congregation and those watching from home. We are grateful for the time, talent, and dedication you share with Trinity!