



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

**October 12, 2025 - 10:30 AM**  
**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**AS WE GATHER** In our Readings today, we see not only where faith guides but also to whom it ultimately leads. In Ruth 1, we learn of Naomi's difficulties as she faced numerous instances of grief. Yet her faith remained in the Lord and His provision, which would lead her to Judah. Faithful to her mother-in-law, Ruth would be guided not only to a new land but also to the knowledge of the one true God. In 2 Timothy 2, even amid imprisonment and suffering, Paul points young Timothy and all hearers in faith to remember Jesus Christ, reminding of the One who remains faithful despite earthly troubles. In Luke 17, ten lepers encounter Jesus and beg for His mercy. Jesus heals them all and then affirms the faith of the cleansed Samaritan, making him well spiritually. As we are called, gathered, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, who gives and sustains the gift of faith still, we are guided by Scripture and led through it to our Savior, Jesus, in whose name we worship in our prayer, our praise, and our thanksgiving for all He has done.

**Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jonathan Chapa. Pastor Gustafson is the Liturgist.**

**PRE-SERVICE:**      **"Reckless Love"**                      (Praise Team) **#23 Key of C**  
                                 **"King of My Heart"**                      (Praise Team) **#26 Key of E**

## **WELCOME & GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN**                                      **"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** *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)*

**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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## INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Psalm 111:1-8**

**Pastor:** Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**People:** Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

**Pastor:** Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

**People:** He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**Pastor:** He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

**People:** He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

**Pastor:** The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

**People:** they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**2 Timothy 2:1, 3, 8a, 11-13; Psalm 111:9-10**

**Pastor:** As we come before the Lord with humble and contrite hearts, we hear the words of encouragement from Paul to young Timothy: "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

**People:** God of grace, we ask Your forgiveness for the times we seek strength away from where You promise to be present with Your Word and in Your means of grace, and for the times we have not desired the grace found in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**Pastor:** "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

**People:** We confess we have chosen the easy way out when our following and serving of Jesus becomes difficult for our lives, forsaking Your name and the name You have given us in Baptism.

**Pastor:** "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead."

**People:** We confess we have not remembered the victory Jesus Christ has won for us over sin, death, and the devil, through His sacrificial death and rising from the dead. Because of this, we have not loved You with all our heart, soul, and strength, and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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:** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him,

**People:** we will also live with Him;

Pastor: if we endure, we will also reign with Him;

**People: if we deny Him, He also will deny us;**

Pastor: if we are faithless,

**People: He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.**

Pastor: Our faithful God, the one 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.**

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

**People: Holy and awesome is His name!**

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**People: His praise endures forever!**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (Romans 3:22b-23)**

***"For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"***

## **SONG**

***"Grateful"***

**#31 Key of D**

**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)**

**Chorus2** 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

**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

**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)

**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)**

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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 Ruth 1:1-19a**

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>10</sup> And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." <sup>14</sup> Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." <sup>18</sup> And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

<sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

## **SECOND READING 2 Timothy 2:1-13**

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not

bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

## GOSPEL READING     **Luke 17:11-19**

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

## SONG OF THE DAY                      **“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

**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)**

**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

**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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## ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) **“Your Presence Is A Promise”**

*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

**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.

✠ WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE ✠

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION SONGS

**"Come As You Are" #77 Key of D**

**Vs.1** *Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal*

**Chorus** *(So) Lay down your burdens  
lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are*

**Vs.2** *There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure*

**(Chorus)**

**Bridge** *Come as you are  
Fall in His arms  
Come as you are*

**Vs.3** *There's joy for the morning O sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal*

**(Chorus)**

**Ending** *Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are*

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**"The Cross Was Meant For Me" (Instrumental) #43 Key of D**

### COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

#### CLOSING SONG

**"I Will Follow" #18 Key of F**

**Intro** *Where You go I'll go  
Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow*

**Vs.1** *All Your ways are good  
All Your ways are sure  
I will trust in You alone  
Higher than my sight  
High above my life  
I will trust in You alone*

**Chorus** *Where You go I'll go  
Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow (You)  
Whom You love I'll love  
How You serve I'll serve  
If this life I lose  
I will follow (You)  
(Yeah I will follow You yeah)*

**Vs.2** *Light into the world  
Light into my life  
I will live for You alone  
You're the One I seek  
Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone  
In You alone*

**(Chorus)**

**Bridge** *In You there's life everlasting  
In You there's freedom for my soul  
In You there's joy unending joy  
And I will follow*

**Chorus 2x)**

**(Repeat)**

*I will follow You yeah  
I will follow You yeah*

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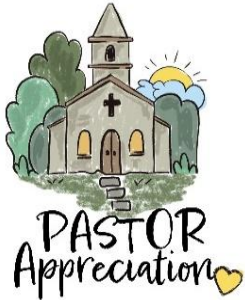
**The radio broadcast is sponsored** in loving memory of Deanna Koebe by Jim Koebe

**The Flowers on the altar are sponsored** by Kathy Yahr, in loving memory of husband, Don Winkelman.





**October 25, 2025 from 10:00-12:00.** Get ready for a morning of fall fun! Families are invited to stroll through our parking lot, visit creatively decorated trunks, and collect sweet treats along the way. It's a safe, family-friendly event filled with candy, laughter, and seasonal fun! **Volunteers Needed!** We're looking for volunteers to help make this event a success—whether by decorating a trunk, handing out candy, or helping with setup and cleanup. Volunteer sign up will be available soon. So grab your costumes, bring your friends, and come celebrate the season with us—we can't wait to see you there!



October is a special month set aside to let our pastors know how very much they are loved and appreciated. It is also a time to thank our Lord for blessing us with our devoted leaders and ask Him to continue to bless them and their ministries here at Trinity. The Lord truly has been good to us by sending Pastor Gustafson and Pastor Chapa to us. Take some time this month to express your appreciation to our pastoral staff and their families. Together we can make this a month that will renew and refresh both of our good shepherds. Do something fun and kind for our pastors. The possibilities are endless, so be creative. Thank you in advance for your joyful participation. May the Lord bless your efforts. October is Pastor Appreciation Month Let's do our best to show our Pastors how much they mean to us. Thank you Pastors for all you do. You are very appreciated and loved!

**"What We Believe" New Member Class** Are you a visitor at Trinity that is interested in joining our Trinity family? Maybe you're a member of Trinity that would enjoy a refresher course in our beliefs with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Trinity. We will be holding a 7 week class beginning on October 19th between Sunday morning services (9:00 AM). If this sounds like something of interest to you... please call the church office to register so we know how many will be in attendance. Thank You!

**The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon** in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, October 26th, 2025. The meal will feature 9 varieties of chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EX-TREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 3 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.

#### **Trinity Lutheran School Launches Operation Christmas Child Project -**

Bringing Joy—and Jesus—to Children Around the World

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. To make this vision a reality, we need your help. We are collecting different types of items each week to fill the shoeboxes. Congregation members can drop off donations in the Christmas box at church in the narthex.

#### **October**

Week 2 – WOW! Items: a special gift that will truly delight a child, stuffy, toy car, jewelry

Week 3 & 4 – Help us fill the gaps! We'll share updates on what we still need.

Each shoebox also requires a \$10 donation to cover overseas shipping and delivery. Your gift not only helps a child receive a box, but ensures they also hear the Good News of Jesus in their own language through outreach and discipleship programs offered by Samaritan's Purse. Contact the school office or Principal Scott Johnson with any questions.

**Ladies.....Diane Kreager's Bible study will start on Wednesday 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.**

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

The first Study is Saturday, October 18 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 8-9:00 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. 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)

*From the Church Council:*

*This past August's Congregational Meeting, Trinity revised the Constitution commissioning the Church Council to move forward hiring a Business Administrator. The responsibilities of this new position would include but are not limited to Financial Management, Human Resources, overseeing Technology, implementing Strategic Planning, and ensuring better Communication in all aspects of Church Ministry. After publicizing this position on various career platforms including several weeks on Indeed, we received a dozen applicants. We are grateful for each one of them.*

*After thoroughly researching reference checks and interviews, the Council extended an offer which has been accepted by Jennifer Rajek to be our new Business Administrator.*

*Jen, who has been serving as our Director of Operations, offers Trinity invaluable experience in financing, administration and a wealth of knowledge dealing with nonprofits. In addition to that, she comes with a heart for serving God's people. We are grateful for the gifts and skills Jen brings to our team and we're certain God will strengthen the mission and ministry of our church.*

*If you'd like to know more or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to our next Congregational Meeting, Sunday, October 26 @ Noon.*

*~ Dan Schneider, Congregational President*