



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

October 26, 2025 – 8:00AM & 6:00PM
Reformation Day Celebrated

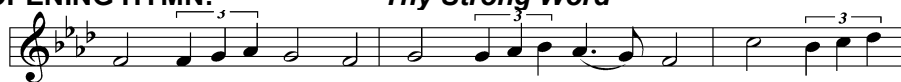
Pastor Scott Gustafson will be our Preacher today with Pastor Jonathan Chapa as our Liturgist and Ken Van De Zande as our Lector. Eileen Hass will be our organist & Ricky Smith on trumpet.

As We Gather We are blessed with many freedoms in this country. We have freedom of speech. We have freedom of religion, with the freedom to assemble. We live in the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” It is easy to rely on our citizenship for proof of our freedom. In that way, we are like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They relied on their Abrahamic lineage for freedom, recalling the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. While these national freedoms are great blessings, in the Holy Gospel, Jesus points out that for true freedom, one must be free from slavery to sin. Only in Christ is anyone truly free.

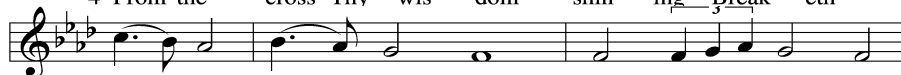
OPENING HYMN:

“Thy Strong Word”

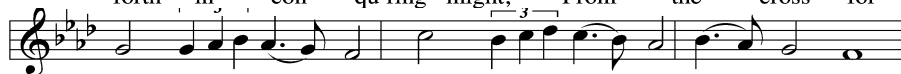
LSB 578



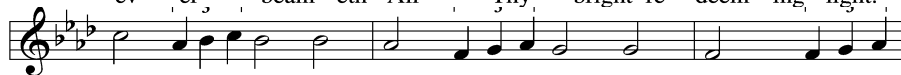
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



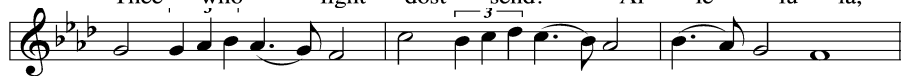
light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er, beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5. *Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!*

D 6. *God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!*

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698 Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10-11*

P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
C **Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus’ sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.**
P The prophet Isaiah reminds us, “The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. 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.
C **Amen.**

INTROIT *Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.
C **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
P My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
C **Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**
P The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.

KYRIE

LSB 152

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 "This is the Feast"

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Re*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. O God of glory, we worship You who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. We worship You who freely forgives us through the propitiation of Jesus' blood, which justifies us freely by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-17

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." ⁸ Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." ¹² Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" ¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶ So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(8:00 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** *"He is the Rock"* by the Holiday Choir

(6:00 PM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** *"Built on a Rock"* by The Firm Foundation Ringers

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the

righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:12-19

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁶ "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

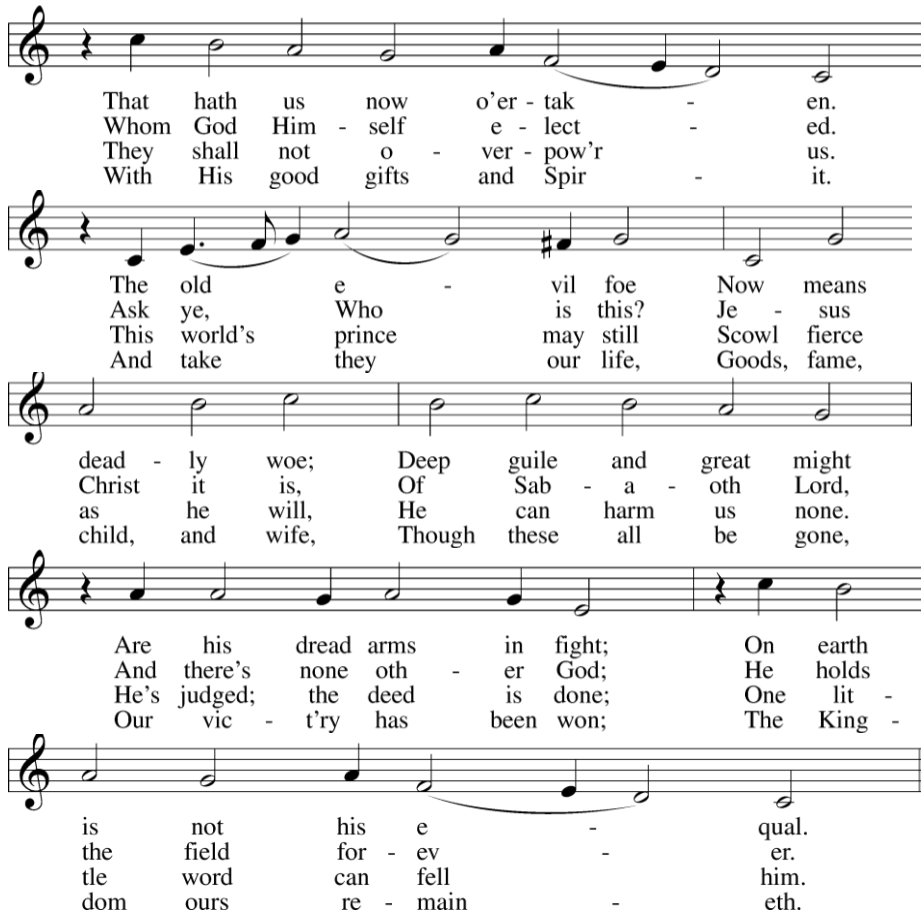
LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main

A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - your us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;

He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er-tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
And take they our life, Goods, fame,

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none,
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main - eth.

Text: tr. Composite Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME / OFFERING *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.*

OFFERTORY

LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and wil



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

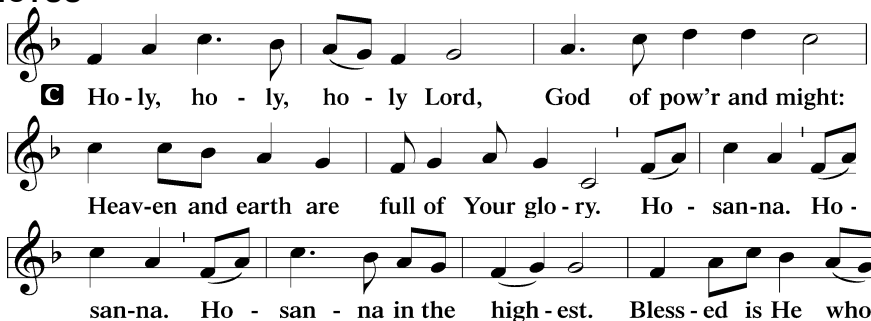
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, for You have set us free and justified us by Your grace, as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom You put forward as a propitiation by His blood. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him are set free from the power of sin and death and will rise again to new life in the city of God, the place of Your holy habitation. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord of hosts, the God of Jacob, our fortress, for You have had mercy on all whom You have created by sending Your Son, Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

As we gather in Your name and the memory of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Lead us to faithfully eat and drink His body and blood. Gather us together as we celebrate the freedom we have in Christ. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

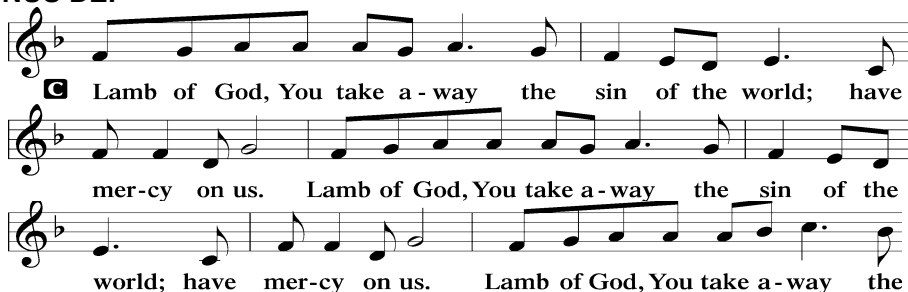
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163





DISTRIBUTION

"Built on the Rock"

LSB 645

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the

stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing

ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -

ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
 us. Here sound the two Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.

But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, My face shall see.

Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

“Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”

LSB 668

1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em-ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the
 2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure And bold - ly strive for
 3 Wise - ly fight, for time is fleet - ing; The hours of grace are

foe de-destroy you; For Sa - tan has de-signed your fall.
 heav'n-ly trea - sure. Be stead-fast in the Sav - ior's might.
 fast re - treat - ing; Short, short is this our earth - ly way.

Wield God's Word, the weap - on glo - rious; A - gainst all foes be
 Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, For Je - sus from all
 When the Lord the dead will wak - en And sin - ners all by

thus vic - to - rious, For God pro-pects you from them all.
 harm will hide you. By faith you con-quer in the fight.
 fear are shak - en, The saints with joy will greet that day.

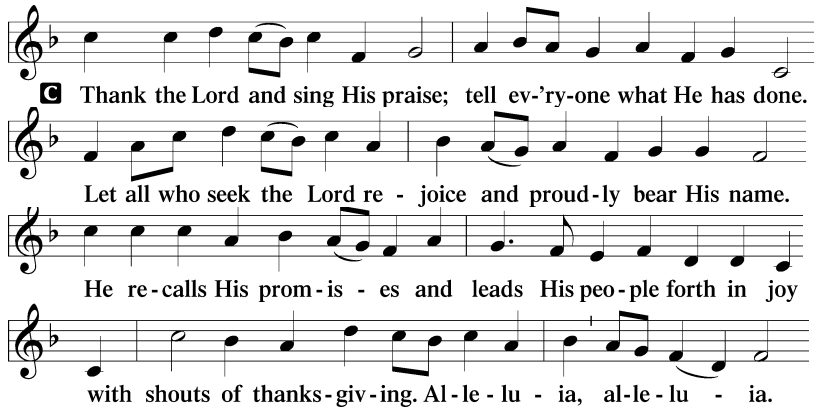
Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Em - man - u - el.
 Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!
 Praise God, our tri - umph's sure. We need not long en - dure

Hail the Sav - ior! The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,
 Joy a - waits you. The race well run, Your long war won,
 Scorn and tri - al. Our Sav - ior King His own will bring

And we, the vic - tors, hold the field.
 Your crown shines splen - did as the sun.
 To that great glo - ry which we sing.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *"Thank the Lord"*

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Let us pray. O God of Jacob, we give You glory for sending Your Son to set us free. We thank You for setting this feast of forgiveness before us. Empower us to proclaim Your eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- 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

"In Christ Alone"

CCLI Song #3350395

Vs.1 In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease

My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Vs.2 In Christ one who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Vs.3 There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Vs.4 No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Roger "Budda" English in honor of his birthday by his family and friends.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in celebration of 56 years of marriage to Norbert and Sharon Holz.

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service **TODAY Sunday, October 26th**. 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.

ALTAR GUILD Trinity Altar Guild will meet for the final time this year on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 in the church basement. Anyone interested in helping work on the Lord's Altar, please join us for devotions and fellowship. Members please check the schedule for your work weekend. Hostesses for the evening are Dawn Schleif, Mardell Simon, and Hollie Thomas

Congratulations Pastor G. - Join us on **Sunday, November 9th** as we come together to celebrate **Pastor Gustafson's Military Retirement!** After the **8:00 am worship service**, enjoy a special time of fellowship with cake, and following the **10:30 am worship service**, we'll continue the celebration with a **potluck meal and cake**. Bring a dish to share, enjoy good food and great company, and help us honor Pastor Gustafson's service and dedication. Please take a moment to **register** so we can plan accordingly for food and seating. Go to the event on Trinity's app or website to register or call the church office at 715-536-5482.

"A Sense of Balance: Improving Balance as You Age." Join the ADRC-CW and Bone and Joint to learn more about factors that impact balance. Hear from Physical Therapist, Cindy Koehler (Bone and

Joint) regarding exercises designed to enhance balance and support independence. **November 13 from 10:00 AM -11:30 AM** | Lincoln County Service Center (801 N Sales Street), Merrill | Free to attend | Pre-registration required: 888-486-9545