



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452
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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

October 26, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Reformation Day Celebrated

Pastor Scott Gustafson will be our Preacher today and Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Liturgist. Ken Van De Zande will assist as our Lector and Eileen Hass our organist.

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.*

PRE-SERVICE: **"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"**
 "Build My Life"

Praise Team **#49 Key of E**

Praise Team **#33 Key of D**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG **"Build Your Kingdom Here" #12 Key of C**

Vs.1 Come set Your rule and reign
 In our hearts again
 Increase in us we pray
 Unveil why we're made
 Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
 Like wildfire in our very souls
 Holy Spirit come invade us now
 We are Your church
 We need Your pow'r in us

For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

(Chorus)

Chorus **Build Your kingdom here**
 Let the darkness fear
 Show Your mighty hand
 Heal our streets and land
 Set Your church on fire
 Win this nation back
 Change the atmosphere
 Build Your kingdom here we pray

Vs.3 Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
 Reaching the near and far
 No force of hell can stop
 Your beauty changing hearts
 You made us for much more than this
 Awake the kingdom seed in us
 Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
 We are Your church
 We are the hope on earth

(Chorus 2X)

Vs.2 We seek Your kingdom first
 We hunger and we thirst
 Refuse to waste our lives

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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 46:1, 7, 10–11*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

People: **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

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

“O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer” #36 Key of D

Vs.1 *O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens’ reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need*

Vs.2 *O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night*

Vs.3 *O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name*

*You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name*

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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 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.

SECOND READING 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.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 11:12-19

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.”

SONG OF THE DAY

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” [LSB 656] **Key of C**

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| 1. <i>A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.</i> | 3. <i>Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.</i> |
| 2. <i>With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.</i> | 4. <i>The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.</i> |

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

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.

✠ WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE ✠

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION SONGS

"The Table" #66 Key of G

Vs.1 *I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table
(Repeat)*

Chorus *Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)*

Vs.2 *There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table*

Vs.3 *There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table
(Chorus)*

Bridge *I know He has a place for me
Oh what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God
(Chorus)*

Vs.4 *I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says come just as you are to His table*

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"At the Cross (Love Ran Red)" (Instrumental) #73 Key of G

COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Battle Belongs" #56 Key of D

Vs.1 *When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You*

Chorus *So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You*

Vs.2 *And if You are for me
Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing
Impossible for You*

*When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb
(Chorus)*

Bridge *(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
(Repeat Twice)
(Chorus)*

Tag *O God the battle belongs to You*

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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 of Norbert & 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