



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

November 16, 2025 - 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM Matins

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the message with us today is **Pastor Jonathan Chapa**. **Pastor Scott Gustafson** is our Liturgist and **Ken Van De Zande** will be assisting as the Lector. **Polly Schneider** is our organist.

OPENING HYMN

"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

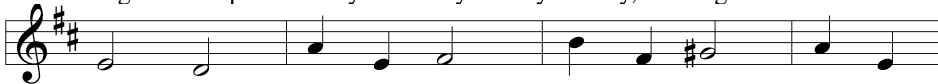
LSB 663



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671–1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, 1694, Dresden, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

VERSICLES

A O Lord, open my lips,
C And my mouth will declare Your praise.

A Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

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

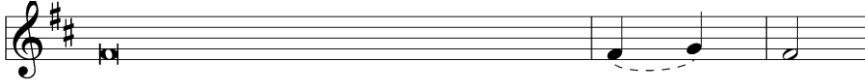
PSALMODY

A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

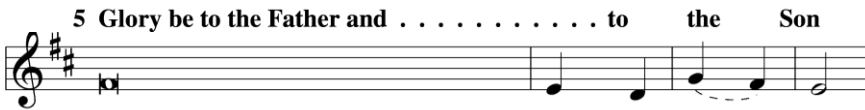
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

VENITE

LSB 220

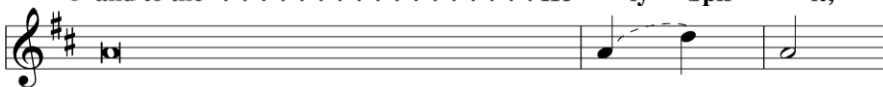


- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,



- 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.



- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

- 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

THE FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-6

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of

hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE EPISTLE

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the weenty-first chapter.

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

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷ And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹ And when you

hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

LSB 221

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
 3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
 What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
 Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
 dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
 trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
 might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
 known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
 judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5. *My Savior paid the debt I owe
 And for my sin was smitten;
 Within the Book of Life I know
 My name has now been written.
 I will not doubt, for I am free,
 And Satan cannot threaten me;
 There is no condemnation!*

6. *May Christ our intercessor be
 And through His blood and merit
 Read from His book that we are free
 With all who life inherit.
 Then we shall see Him face to face,
 With all His saints in that blest place
 Which He has purchased for us.*

7. *O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
 But hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way
 In fear and tribulation.
 O hear and grant our fervent plea:
 Come, mighty judge, and set us free
 From death and ev'ry evil.*

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet
 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,
 three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.
 bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt. Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna Text and tune: Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED

(8:00 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"** by the Firm Foundation Ringers

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. (When filling out the attendance book, please include your last names and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)*

PRAYER 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.

COLLECT

- A O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- A O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

- A O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

- A Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION LSB 228

- P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

LSB 919



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

5. *Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.*
6. *Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.*

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Today's radio broadcast in memory and celebration of the 32nd Wedding Anniversary of Mike & Debbie Moellendorf.

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of Dale Kopetzky by Amanda Goeden and family.

PLEASE HELP! – The Trinity Decorating Committee is in need of YOUR help!!

We are a very small group with a lot of decorating to do to make the Lord's house beautiful for Christmas. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Join us on November 23rd at 1:00 PM in the church basement for the wreath decorating, then on November 28 at 9:00 AM to decorate the church and December 1st to decorate the trees at 9:00 AM. On December 1st we are also asking that any strong men that are able to come help, to please join us in setting up the large treesWE NEED YOUR HELP!. We strive to make God's house pleasing to Him and for our Trinity families, so we can all enjoy the beauty of God's house with the work of our hands to turn our church into a place fit for a king. We love Trinity and we would love it if you would join us in decorating and preparing for Christmas.

LADIES: Join us..

The Ladies Aid group meets on Thursday, Nov 20, at 1:00 PM.

The Dorcas will also meet on Thursday, Nov. 20th but at 6:30 PM

🎄 ✨ **Advent at Trinity – Mark Your Calendars!** ✨ 🎄

The Christmas season is almost here, and Trinity has a wonderful lineup of Advent events to help us celebrate the joy and hope of our Savior's birth! From music-filled worship to family gatherings and festive traditions, there's something for everyone to enjoy this December.

Here's what's coming up — be sure to **mark your calendars** and **watch for more details** as we get closer to each event!

- 📅 **Wednesday, December 3** – *Trinity Advent Series: Jim Pekol Polka Band* (6:30 PM)
- 📅 **Saturday, December 6** – *Trinity Dorcas Ladies Annual Bake Sale* (3:00 PM)
- 📅 **Saturday, December 6** – *Christmas Wreath Lighting Service* (6:30 PM)
- 📅 **Sunday, December 7** – *Living Nativity*
- 📅 **Wednesday, December 10** – *Trinity Advent Series: Firm Foundation Ringers* (6:30 PM)
- 📅 **Thursday, December 11** – *6th–8th Grade Christmas Service* (6:00 PM)
- 📅 **Tuesday, December 16** – *2nd–5th Grade Christmas Service* (6:00 PM)
- 📅 **Wednesday, December 17** – *Trinity Advent Series: The Garms Family* (6:30 PM)
- 📅 **Thursday, December 18** – *4K–1st Grade Christmas Service* (6:00 PM)
- 📅 **Saturday, December 20** – *Christmas Movie at the Cosmo* (3:30 PM)

Watch for additional information regarding the All Youth Christmas Party. 🎵 Beautiful music, joyful fellowship, and meaningful worship await as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. Stay tuned for more details coming soon — and get ready to celebrate this Advent season at Trinity!

Thanksgiving Services

Wed. Nov. 26 at 6:30 PM
(Facebook live at 6:30 PM)

Thurs. Nov. 27 at 9:30 AM
Live on the Radio at 9:30 AM
(730 on the AM dial or 96.3 on the FM dial)



The Firm Foundation Ringers, Trinity Lutheran Church's handbell choir, fill our sanctuary and community with beautiful music that uplifts hearts and glorifies God. This talented group of volunteers meets Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church balcony for an hour of Christian fellowship and music-making as they prepare to share their gifts in worship.

We are so thankful for each member of the Firm Foundation Ringers who generously gives their time, talent, and joy to create such meaningful music. Their dedication brings both celebration and reflection to our worship and extends God's love into the wider community.

If you'd like to learn more—or are interested in joining this wonderful group—please contact Allan Klade at 715-921-0900.

**THANK YOU, FIRM FOUNDATION
RINGER VOLUNTEERS!!**