



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 16, 2025 - 10:30 AM

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jonathan Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist.

AS WE GATHER One of the great mysteries of the Christian faith can be summed up in the word “near.” “Near” can indicate something that is almost here but hasn’t yet arrived. And at the same time, “near” can point to something already with us, like those “near and dear” to our hearts. The word “near” resounds with feelings of the here and now and the not quite yet. Today in worship, Your Savior, Jesus, is near! He is present in the here and now, delivering grace upon grace. And He is on His way, bringing the fullness of His freedom. Praise the God who comes near in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

PRE-SERVICE: *“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”* Praise Team **#14 Key of D**
 “What a Friend” Praise Team **#29 Key of C**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG *“Old Church Choir”* **#27 Key of F**

Vs.1 *There's revival and it's spreading
Like a wildfire in my heart
A Sunday morning hallelujah
And it's lasting all week long
Can you hear it
Can you feel it
It's the rhythm of a gospel song
Oh once you choose it you can't lose it*

Pre-Chorus *(Oh 'cause) There ain't nothing
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy*

Chorus *I've got an old church choir singing in my soul
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful
I've got a heart overflowing
'Cause I've been restored
(No) there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy*

Vs.2 When the valleys that I wander
Turn to mountains that I can't climb
Oh You are with me You never leave me
(Pre-Chorus & Chorus)

Bridge Clap your hands and stomp your feet
'Til you find that gospel beat
'Cause He's all you'll ever need
All you'll ever need
Clap your hands and stomp your feet
'Til you find that gospel beat
'Cause He's all you'll ever need
All you'll ever need

Interlude I've got an old church choir singing in my soul
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful
(Chorus)
Oh there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

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BAPTISM: Today we welcome Wade Joseph Hollfelder to the waters of Holy Baptism. Wade is the son of Nicholas & Danielle (Grosskurth) Hollfelder. His sponsors are Brittany Graap, Brianna Grosskurth, Rebecka Hellweg & Chris Hellweg

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Job 19:25a; Psalm 107:2a; Exodus 15:13; Psalm 118:24

Pastor: For I know that my Redeemer lives.

People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

Pastor: You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

People: You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Colossians 1:13–14

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

People: and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

People: we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your Righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in Your peace. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh 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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray 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.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (2 Thessalonians 2:14)

"To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

SONG

"House of the Lord" #65 Key of A

Vs.1 *We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory yeah*

Chorus 1 *There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord
today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise*

Interlude 1 *Oh oh oh*
We shout out Your praise

Vs.2 *We sing to the God who heals*
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

Chorus 1 *There's joy in the house of the Lord*
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

Bridge *('Cause) We were the beggars*
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise
(Repeat)
(Chorus-Repeat)

Ending *We shout out Your praise*
There is joy in this house
There is joy in this house today
We shout out Your praise
We shout out Your praise

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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.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND READING

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.

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."

SONG OF THE DAY

"You Cannot Be Stopped"

#74 Key of E

Vs.1 *The dark tried to hide You
And steal You away
Death tried to keep You
Inside of the grave
The enemy fought You
He tried but he lost
You cannot be stopped*

Vs.2 *When we cried for freedom
You tore down the walls
The weight of our burdens
You carried it all
Our fears and our failures
Hang dead on the cross
You cannot be stopped*

Chorus *Mover of mountains
Breaker of chains
Jesus has triumphed over the grave
Sing hallelujah
The battle is won
Nothing can stand against our God*

Vs.3 *We stand on Your victory
And shout out Your praise
Miracle maker
You're mighty to save
Awesome in power
Relentless in love
You cannot be stopped*

(Chorus)

Bridge *There's nothing that can stop our God
There's nothing that can stop our God
There's nothing that can stop our God
There is nothing (there is nothing)
(Repeat)*

Chorus *Mover of mountains
Breaker of chains
Jesus has triumphed over the grave
Sing hallelujah
The battle is won
Nothing can stand against our God*

Ending *Sing hallelujah
The battle is won
Nothing can stand against our God*

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) **“You Cannot Be Stopped”**

*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 name and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)***

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

“Send Me Out” #38 Key of G

Vs.1 *Jesus Lord of my salvation
Savior of my soul
Send me out to the world to make You known
Jesus King of ev'ry nation
This world's only hope
Send me out to the world to make You known
Send me out to the world*

*Send me out to the world to make You known
To the ones in need of rescue
Lead me I will go
Send me out to the world to make You known
Send me out to the world*

(Chorus)

Chorus *I wanna be Your hands and feet
I wanna be Your voice ev'ry time I speak
I wanna run to the ones in need
In the name of Jesus
I wanna give my life away
All for Your kingdom's sake
Shine a light in the darkest place
In the name of Jesus
(In the name of Jesus)*

Bridge *Here am I
I will go
Send me out to make You known
There is hope for ev'ry soul
Send me out send me out
Here am I
I will go
Send me out to make You known
There is hope for ev'ry soul
So send me out*

Vs.2 *Carry to the broken-hearted
Mercy You have shown*

(Chorus (Sing Twice))

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Today's radio broadcast is 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.

🌟 ✨ **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!!**

Haven Giving Tree will go up Nov. 30- Watch for it so you can grab a tag to help those in need over the Christmas season.

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 will meet on Thursday, Nov 20, at 1:00 PM.

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