



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 23, 2025 – 8:00AM & 6:00 PM DS 1

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.

OPENING HYMN:

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

LSB 905

1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal

name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,

Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt. Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

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 & COLLECT OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.
 C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:27-43

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷ And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

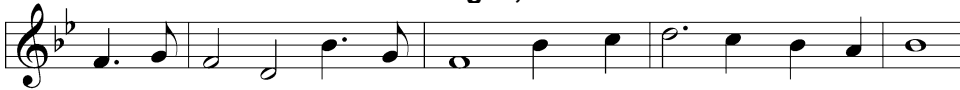
A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

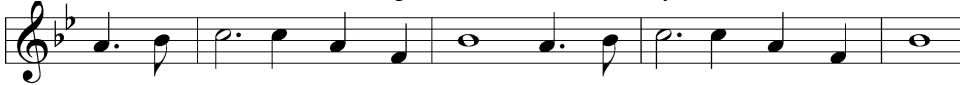
SERMON HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

C 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.

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 name and list the names of all in attendance in your family)

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 will
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

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with 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, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *"God Loved the World So That He Gave"*

LSB 571

1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5. *If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.*

6. *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

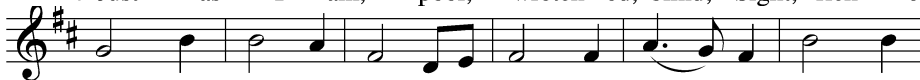
Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

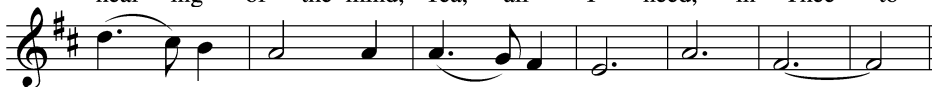
LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. *Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

6. *Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thank the Lord”

LSB 164



G 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 COLLECT

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 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

“Jerusalem the Golden ”

LSB 672

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
Δ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!
The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Lenore English and in honor of her birthday by her family and friends.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Lyle Whiting by Fern, Russ & Joan.

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 Sunday, **Nov. 23rd at 1:00 pm.** We will be decorating the live outside wreaths, inside wreaths, and Advent Wreath (church basement). On **Friday, November 28th at 9:00 am,** we will be decorating the inside of church, windows, balcony, narthex, and doing the outside roping. On **Monday, December 1st at 9:00** our trees are arriving, and we will need some strong men to carry in stands, cut off trunks, set up 4 trees and put lights on two tall trees. Tree decorating and any other decorating will begin after the trees are up around 11:00. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** We strive to make God's house pleasing to Him and for our Trinity families. We will all enjoy the beauty of God's house with the work of our hands in turning 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.

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!

Coming Soon- BAKED GOODIES

The Trinity Dorcas Ladies will be holding their annual bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 6th at 3:00pm in the Church basement. Plan to be there to get your Christmas cookies and baked goods.

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)



Thank you Mrs. Severt!

We joyfully celebrate Mrs. Karli Severt for her 10 years of faithful service at Trinity Lutheran School. Please join us in expressing gratitude for her years of ministry and in praying for her continued joy in serving the Lord through her work as the

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