



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 23, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Pastor Scott Gustafson will be our Preacher today and Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Liturgist.

AS WE GATHER: There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, "That's mine!" seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear, or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, "You are Mine," you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

PRE-SERVICE: *"What a Beautiful Name"*
 "Good Good Father"

Praise Team **#8 Key of D**
Praise Team **#7 Key of F**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG *"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"* **#14 Key of D**

Vs.1 *Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

Vs.2 *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed*

Chorus ***My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace***

Vs.3 *The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures*

(Chorus)

Vs.4 *The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine*

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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 118:24; Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 43:1***

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

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

People: **and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.**

Pastor: Now thus says the LORD, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

People: **I have called you by name, you are Mine."**

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 King,

People: **we confess that we have broken trust with You. We have doubted Your goodness, neglected Your ways, and sought to satisfy our sinful nature. We do not think, speak, or act like Your treasured possession. We bring before You our faults and failures, honestly and humbly recognizing that we deserve to be cast out of Your kingdom. Have mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Spare us from Your wrath, deliver us from death and darkness, and cleanse us from sin, that we serve You in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness now and always. Amen.**

Pastor: On His cross, Jesus Christ, your Savior, was crowned with shame and given unto death for You. His blood pays the price Your sins deserve. Now crowned with glory, the risen and reigning Christ lives to declare sins forgiven. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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. 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.

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

"My Savior My God"

#57 Key of D

Vs.1 I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed what God has planned
I only know at His right hand
Stands One who is my Savior

Vs.2 I take Him at His word and deed
Christ died to save me this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior

Pre-Chorus That He would leave His place on high
And come for sinful man to die
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior

Chorus **My Savior loves my Savior lives
My Savior's always there for me
My God He was my God He is**

**My God is always gonna be
(REPEAT)**

Vs.3 Yes living dying let me bring
My strength my solace from this spring
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior

(Pre-Chorus & Chorus)

(Instrumental)

(Chorus)

Ending My Savior lives my Savior loves
My Savior lives my Savior loves my
Savior lives

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 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. Evil-doers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”¹⁶ Then 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.

SECOND READING Colossians 1:13-20

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL READING Luke 23:27-43

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For 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!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And 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!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There 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."

SONG OF THE DAY

"Rescuer" #25 Key of C

Chorus *He's our Rescuer
He's our Rescuer
We are free from sin forevermore
Oh how sweet the sound
Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer*

Vs.1 *There is good news for the captive
Good news for the shamed
There is good news for the one who
walked away
There is good news for the doubter
The one religion failed
For the good Lord has come to seek and
save*

(Chorus)

Vs.2 *He is beauty for the blind man
Riches for the poor
He is friendship for the one the world
ignores
He is pasture for the weary
Rest for those who strive
Oh the good Lord is the way the truth the life
Yes the good Lord is the way the truth the life*

Bridge *So come and be chainless
Come and be fearless
Come to the foot of Calvary
There is redemption for every affliction
Here at the foot of Calvary
(Repeat)*

(Chorus)

We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) **"Rescuer"**

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)

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

"Just As I Am" #15 Key of A

Vs.1 *Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come I come*

Vs.2 *Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God I come I come*

Chorus *I come broken to be mended
I come wounded to be healed
I come desperate to be rescued
I come empty to be filled*

*I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ the Lamb
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God
Just as I am*

Vs.3 *Just as I am I would be lost
But mercy and grace my freedom bought
And now to glory in Your cross
O Lamb of God I come I come*

Chorus-(Sing twice)

Ending *Praise God just as I am*

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"Death Was Arrested" (Instrumental) #46 Key of G

COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Good God Almighty" #60 Key of D

Vs.1 I can't count the times
I've called Your name some broken night
And You showed up and patched me up
Like You do every time
I get amnesia I forget that You keep
coming around
Yeah ain't no way You'll ever let me
down

Chorus **Good God Almighty**
I hope You'll find me
Praising Your Name no matter what
comes
'Cause I know where I'd be
Without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the
top of my lungs

Bridge 1 Tell me is He good (He's good)
Tell me is He God (He's God)
He is Good God Almighty

Vs.2 You say Your love goes on forever
That Your mercy never stops
So why would I assume
You'd be somebody that You're not
Like sun in the morning
I know You're gonna be there every day
So what on earth could make me be
afraid

(Chorus & Bridge 1)

Bridge 2 Praise Him in the morning
Praise Him in the noon time
Praise Him when the sun goes down
Love Him in the morning
Love Him in the noon time
Love Him when the sun goes down

(Chorus & Bridge 1)

Bridge 3 Jesus in the morning
Jesus in the noon time
Jesus when the sun goes down
Jesus in the morning
Jesus in the noon time
Jesus when the sun goes down

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Lenore English 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 also 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)

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)



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.

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 Administrative Assistant at Trinity Lutheran School. We thank God for Mrs. Severt!

