



TRINITY MERRILL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

January 18, 2026 - 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM - Matins
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jon Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist and Ken Van De Zande is our Lector. Eileen Hass is playing the organ.

AS WE GATHER: People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do. Today, we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5-6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

OPENING HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB 702

1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And grieves a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day, Wipe sor-row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872 Text and tune: Public domain

VERSIDLES

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

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

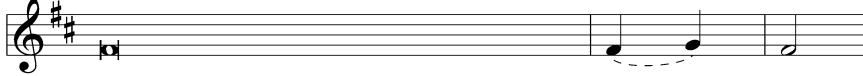
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

PSALMODY

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

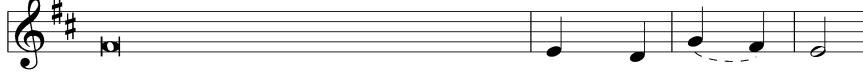
VENITE

LSB 220



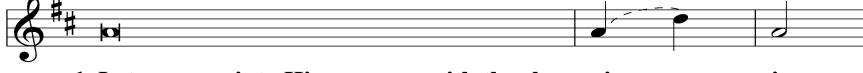
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

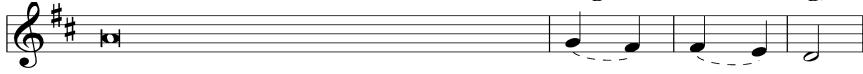


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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.

PSALMODY

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
C **O come, let us worship Him.**

FIRST READING *(The Servant of the Lord)*

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharp

sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God."⁵ And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "*This is the Day*" by the Trinity School students in Grade 2 through Grade 5.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42a

P The Holy Gospel reading according to St. John the first chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹ The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you

seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ the Word of God Incarnate"

LSB 540 vs.1, 4-6

1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your
 5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing To the Fa - ther's
[△] 6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ, the first-born

A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,
 home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive,
 from the dead, Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion,

Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good
 Christ, the life that can - not die. Me - di - a - tor
 Christ, the Church's glo - rious head: Praise and thanks and

shine un - van-quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of
 to the Fa - ther, Sac - ri - fice and great High Priest: Lead us
 ad - o - ra - tion And un - end - ing wor - ship be To the

path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.
 to Your heav'n - ly man - sions, There to share Your wed-ding feast.
 Fa - ther and the Spir - it And to You e - ter - nal - ly.

Tune: Public domain

SERMON

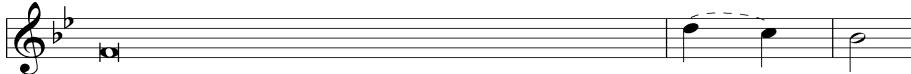
APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father

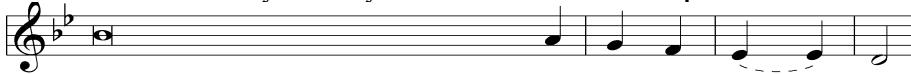
Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

TE DEUM

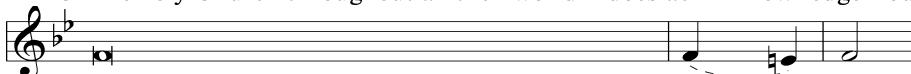
LSB 223



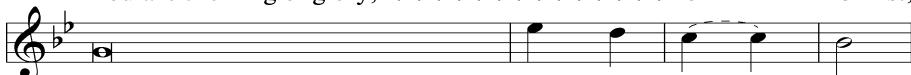
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



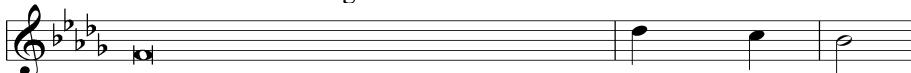
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



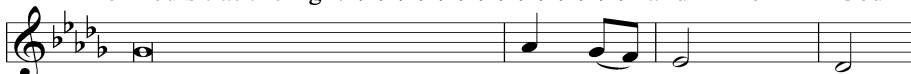
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'r's there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



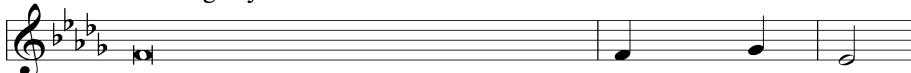
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



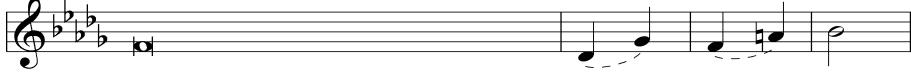
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



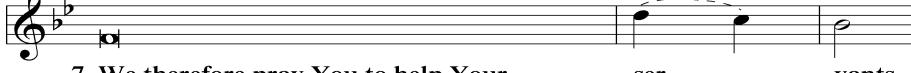
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.

7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift . . . them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.

7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.

7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

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 list the names of all 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 Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

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

LSB 228

BENEDICTION

LSB 228

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

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

LSB 606

1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;

He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.

I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;

Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra-grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Matins 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 by Buzz & Marge Fehrman in honor of those who have served and who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

The Flowers on the altar are sponsored in loving memory of Jack Kleinschmidt, beloved husband, dad and Bapa by the Kleinschmidt and Severt Families.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE! Please pick up your envelopes from the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to find yours, please contact the church office.

RADIO BROADCASTS are so important to our ministry here at Trinity. Please consider sponsoring a broadcast in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. Broadcasts are \$190.00. Stop in the office to reserve the date you like before it is taken. Our broadcasts are heard by so many who cannot make it to church.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2026 Please help us beautify our church – sign up on the chart in the hall by the Conference room to put flowers on the altar in 2026. Call the church office at least a week in advance to notify Robin of the occasion for the flowers. Flowers must be dropped off before 4:00 on Friday and picked back up either after the 6:00 PM Sunday service or Monday morning.

Men's Club Chili Luncheon - The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on **Sunday, February 1st, 2026**. The meal will feature 10 varieties of chili. 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.

GriefShare begins Feb. 23, 2026, and meets weekly both online (Zoom) and in person for 13 weeks. Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of your friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome! (Church membership is not required.) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, **Join us and learn more** at www.Griefshare.org. Grief is difficult. Share your burdens and grow through your unique healing this spring online and in person through GriefShare at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill - Questions call Manda Norman (715) 351-1399.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Help Us Spread the Word - Open House Invitation - January 28, 2026. Trinity families, we'd love your help! We are excited to welcome new families to Trinity Lutheran School and invite you to share our upcoming 4K-8th Grade New Student Open House with friends, neighbors, coworkers, and relatives who may be looking for a Christ-centered school community. Our Open House will be held 5:30-7:00 PM on the last Wednesday in January, and it's a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see what Trinity is all about—faith, strong values, leadership, meaningful friendships, and academic challenges that help students grow. **Experience the welcoming, family-focused environment that makes Trinity special. Families will be able to:**

- Meet our teachers and staff
- Learn about Full-Day 4K, our STEM-Innovation Lab, and the Wisconsin Choice Program & tuition assistance
- Tour classrooms and learning spaces

Trinity is partnering with HOPE Life Center throughout the month of January. Hope provides confidential help, compassionate care and free services, to those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, possible STD, or dealing with a past abortion. We take time to build relationships and encourage individuals to make good choices. Most importantly, we share the love and forgiveness found only in Jesus Christ. With your support, we are committed to building a community of grace that extends beyond the birth of their child. Operation Baby Bottle (OBB) provides support for the mission of Hope, and is a simple way for our congregation to get involved. Please pick up a bottle as you leave church, fill the bottle with coins, bills or checks, and then return the bottle to church. You can also donate online at HOPEWI.ORG/DONATE Trinity is collecting throughout the month of January.

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND WE NEED YOUR....

- Updated Address
- E-mail Address
- Cell phone number

Be sure to update your contact information if you have moved, changed your phone number, got married, had a child, go to college, serve in the military, your child has moved out and has a new address, etc. You're important to us and we want to keep in touch. Please be sure the church office has all your current and correct information. Call the church office at 715-536-5482.

ALTAR GUILD- Trinity Altar Guild will meet Tuesday, Jan 27th at 6:30 in the basement social room. Stephanie Chapa , Director of Christian Education, will be our guest speaker and give us an outlook on her daily tasks as youth leader, along with her great children's messages on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship and food and a short business meeting. Hostesses for the evening are Marlene Thomaschefske, Robin Tomajcik, and Fern Whiting.