



Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

Life Sunday

WELCOME AND GREETING

Vs. 4 *God all-gracious, wise and just, In your hands my life I trust;
You at all times I will bless: Having you, I all possess.*

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.**

C For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who took on human flesh, was born of the Virgin Mary, and gave His life for the life of the world, have mercy on us, forgive us, and renew us. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ was conceived, born, and crucified for sinners. He shed His blood for every human life — including yours. By His death He has paid for every sin, and by His resurrection He has conquered death itself. 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF FAITH

P Because you are forgiven and made new in Christ, walk now as children of the light. Love as He has loved you. Speak for those who cannot speak. Defend the life He has created. And live in the joy of His mercy.

C **Thanks be to God**

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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 & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, Creator of life, You knit us together in the wombs of our mothers and You desire us to have life. So also, Your only begotten Son took on our flesh in the womb of His mother and entered this world as all children of men do — except without sin — so that He might be one with us and make us Your children. Look in mercy and love upon all the precious lives of children yet unborn. Guard them and give them growth, that they might come to the saving water of Holy Baptism and a saving knowledge of Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:5-9

⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:5-18

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we

do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will sing your praise." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -
 a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with
 health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His
 tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

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 names and list the names of everyone 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 & PROPER 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.

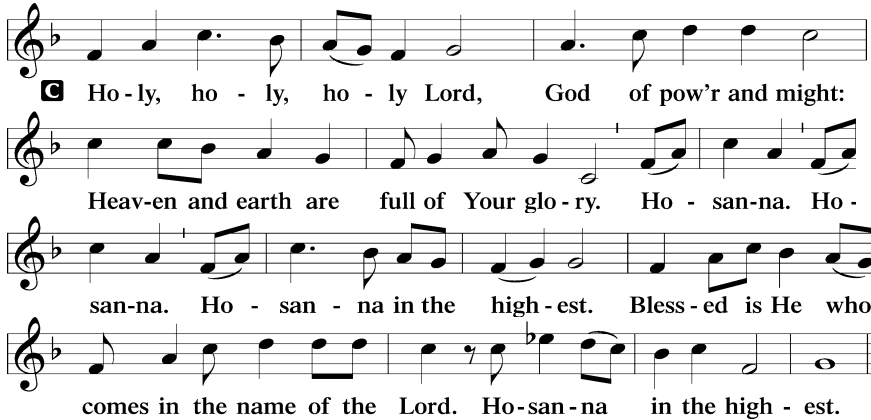
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 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

G 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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see as the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righteous-ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa-tience the race,

The star of my life is Je-sus.
And show me the way to the Fa-ther.
We shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In Him there is no dark-ness at all.

The night and the day are both a-like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025 Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

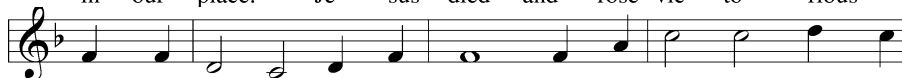
LSB 849



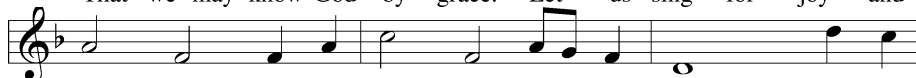
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

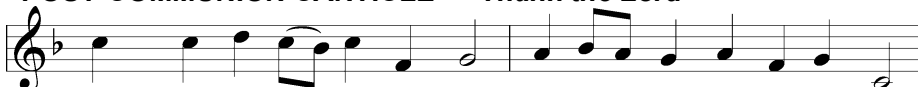


storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698 Tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Thank the Lord”*

LSB 164



☐ 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



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. 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

"God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

LSB 877



1 God, who made the earth and heav-en, Dark-ness and light:
2 And when morn-a-gain shall call us To run life's way,
3 Guard us wak-ing, guard us sleep-ing, And when we die,
△ 4 Ho-ly Fa-ther, throned in heav-en, All-ho-ly Son,



You the day for work have giv-en, For rest the night. May Your
May we still, what-e'er be-fall us, Your will o-bey. From the
May we in Your might-y keep-ing All peace-ful lie. When the
Ho-ly Spir-it, free-ly giv-en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an-gel guards de-fend us, Slum-ber sweet Your mer-cy send us,
pow'r of e-vil hide us, In the nar-row path-way guide us,
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for-sake us,
grace, we now im-plore You, Till we lay our crowns be-fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments 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 © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Charles Utecht by John & Debbie Matuszak.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of the birthday of Kolton Gregory Norman by Adam and Manda Norman.

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 Thomaschefs, Robin Tomajcik, and Fern Whiting.

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. Envelopes are made for members Grade 3 through adult, unless you have electronic giving.

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.

Memory Heart Tree Show your love for departed loved ones during the Month of February by writing their name on a heart and placing it on the Memory Tree in the narthex. You may also help spread the Word of God by donating new or used Bibles or children's Bible story books and placing them under the Memory Tree. They will be given to the Homeless Shelter and the Little Libraries in Merrill. Any monetary donations will be used for Bibles as well. Thank you - Trinity Dorcas

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

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.

Mark Your Calendars- BOW THE KNEE, a dramatic musical for Easter will be presented here at Trinity Merrill on Saturday, March 21st at 7 pm and Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30pm. **Plan to come see and hear what it must have been like to be in Jerusalem with Jesus during his life, death, and resurrection. Everyone is welcome!**

Lenten Meals at Trinity - During the season of Lent, Trinity will once again gather around the table for fellowship and nourishment as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue for five Wednesdays throughout Lent. Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM, following our 10:30 AM worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a simple meal and meaningful conversation with fellow members of our Trinity family.

Lenten Dinners will begin on Wednesday, February 25, and continue for four additional Wednesdays during Lent. Dinner will be served from 5:00 PM until just before the 6:30 PM worship service, providing a convenient and welcoming time to gather before evening worship.

We are however still looking for individuals or groups to help us prepare and serve the

suppers. Please contact the office if you are able to make soup or sandwiches to help bring these meals together and to bring fellowship to our Lenten services.

We look forward to sharing these meals and this sacred season together. All are welcome!

You are invited to sign up for the **SECRET PRAYER SUPPORT** Partners Program which provides you with the opportunity to pray for another worshipper here at Trinity throughout the Lenten season. While you are praying for the person whose name you draw, they will be praying for someone else. The stipulations of the program are (1) that you remain faithful in prayer throughout the Lenten season for the person whose name you draw and (2) that you don't tell that person you are praying for him/her until you send that person a signed card at Easter time. Signup will be in the lobby on Sun., Feb. 8; drawing the name of the person for whom you will be praying will occur the following Sun, Feb. 15. This is a great opportunity to bless the life of someone else here at Trinity! See you at the signup table.