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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

January 25, 2026 - 10:30 AM
Life Sunday

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

PRE-SERVICE: *"King of My Heart"*
 "Won't Stop Now"

Praise Team *#26 Key of E*
Praise Team *#39 Key of E*

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG *"Called Me Higher"* *#22 Key of D*

Vs.1 *I could just sit I could just sit
And wait for all Your goodness
Hope to feel Your presence
And I could just stay I could just stay
Right where I am and hope to feel You
Hope to feel something again*

Vs.2 *I could hold on I could hold on
To who I am and never let You
Change me from the inside
I could be safe oh I could be safe
Here in Your arms and never leave home
Never let these walls down*

Chorus 1 *But You have called me higher, You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
You have called me higher, You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
Where You lead me*

(Repeat Verse 2 and Chorus 1)

Where You lead me Lord

Bridge *I will be Yours oh, I will be Yours for all my life
I will be Yours oh, I will be Yours for all my life
I will be Yours oh, I will be Yours for all my life
So let Your mercy
Oh I will be Yours Lord, I will be Yours for all my life
So let Your mercy, light the path before me*

Chorus 2 *'Cause You have called me higher, You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord*
(Repeat)

Ending *Where You lead me Lord, where You lead me Lord
Where You lead me, where You lead me Lord*

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father. Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. You are the Lord and Giver of life, yet we have failed to treasure every life You create.

People: **We confess that we have not always defended the unborn, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled, and the forgotten. We have been silent when we should have spoken, fearful when we should have been faithful, and indifferent when we should have loved.**

Pastor: We confess that we have sometimes valued convenience over compassion, and comfort over truth. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor honored You as the Author of all life.

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF FAITH

Pastor: 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.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

MONTHLY VERSE Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

SONG

"I Will Follow" #18 Key of F

Intro *Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow*

Vs.1 *All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in You alone*

Chorus *Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow (You)
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow (You)
(Yeah I will follow You yeah)*

Vs. 2 *Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone*

(Chorus)

Bridge *In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy unending joy
And I will follow*

(Chorus 2X)

*I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah*

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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 Genesis 2:5-9

⁵ When 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, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then 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.

SECOND READING 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.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 10:24-33

[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."

SONG OF THE DAY

"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

*Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away
(Chorus 1)*

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 2X)

Interlude 1 Oh oh oh
We shout out Your praise

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*

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

MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) "House of the Lord"

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.

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

"How Deep The Father's Love for Us." #103 Key of F

Vs.1 *How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory*

Vs.2 *Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

Vs.3 *I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*

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"O Come To the Altar" (Instrumental) #3 Key of G

COMMUNION BLESSING & 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*

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)*

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

(Chorus (Sing Twice))

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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 & Manda Norman.

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

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, age 5 and under is Free.

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.

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.