



LENTEN SERVICE 3

March 11, 2026 – 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

“Bow the Knee: Before the Cross”

John 12:20-33

Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be sharing the message with us today. Pastor Scott Gustafson is the Liturgist and Eileen Hass, organist.

As We Gather: Tonight we gather in the shadow of the cross, where Jesus speaks of His “hour” of glory—an hour not of earthly triumph, but of suffering and death. The world seeks power and honor, yet Christ reveals that true glory is found in self-giving love. As He is lifted up, He draws all people to Himself. This evening we bow the knee before the cross, confessing that the crucified Christ is our Lord, our life, and our salvation.

THE INVOCATION

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN “The Old Rugged Cross”

1. *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain: ***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.***

2. *O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]*

3. *In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]*

4. *To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]*

OPENING SENTENCES

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.
C **By Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.**
P The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
C **We bow before Your cross, O Lord.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us confess our sins before God, remembering that our Lord was lifted up on the cross for our salvation.
C **Merciful Father, we confess that we have not bowed before You as Lord. We seek our own glory instead of the glory of Christ. We resist the way of the cross, clinging to our lives rather than losing them for Jesus' sake. Forgive us for His sake, who was lifted up to draw us to Himself. 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE CROSS

- P Lord Jesus Christ, when Your hour had come, You did not shrink from the cross but embraced it for our salvation. Grant that we may bow before Your cross in repentance and faith, losing our lives in You and finding in Your death our eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:13-53:5

¹³Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
¹⁵so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30 AM) SOLO

(6:30 PM) SPECIAL MUSIC by the Firm Foundation Ringers

THE EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has

spoken to him.”³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

LSB 425

1. *When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.*
2. *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.*
3. *See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*
4. *Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!*

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THE SERMON “Bow the Knee: Before the Cross”

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.**

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.

LUTHER'S PRAYER

(10:30 MORNING:)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(6:30 EVENING)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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 list the names of all in attendance in your family)

THE 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 give you peace.
- C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LSB 427

- 1 *In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.*
- 2 *When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.*
- 3 *When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.*
- 4 *Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.*

Text: Public domain

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!

SECRET PRAYER SUPPORT – Remember to keep your Prayer Support person’s name a secret until Easter Time when you will reveal that you are the one that prayed for them. Prayer is such a wonderful gift to give.

Lenten Meals at Trinity - During the season of Lent, Trinity is once again gathering around the table for fellowship and nourishment as we prepare our hearts for Easter. **Lenten Lunches** will be served each Wednesday during Lent at 11:30 AM. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a simple meal and meaningful conversation with fellow members.
Lenten Dinners will be served each Wednesday 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. Contact the office if you would like to help or donate.

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for assistance with the last Lenten Supper of the season on March 25th (5:00-6:30) We are asking for individuals or families to volunteer to help set-up and help clean-up for this last final meal before Holy Week. We are also in need of bars so we can have dessert for this wonderful soup meal of Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Your help would be appreciated. Call the church office if you are able to assist in any way.

EASTER BREAKFAST - Enjoy Easter Breakfast at Trinity Church on Easter morning. Breakfast will be served from 7:00-10:30 and will include pancakes (regular, banana, chocolate chip, & blueberry) pure maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and some delicious sweets. Join us on Easter morning and bring the family.



NO 6:00 PM Church Service on March 15 or March 22. *Our Church is hosting the Bow the Knee Musical and will need March 15 for rehearsal and to set up the stage and props. The Musical itself will be held on March 21st at 7:00 PM and March 22nd at 2:30. This is an event you need to attend. It is a beautiful reenactment of Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection. Bring your family and friends.*



10TH ANNUAL PTO DINNER AND AUCTION

April 25th
SAVE THE DATE
MERRILL EXPO CENTER

MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

Questions? Interested in donating?
Contact trinitypto@tismerrill.com



Maundy Thursday (April 2)

Services are 1:00 PM & 6:30 PM w/ Holy Communion

The 1:00 PM service can be heard on the 730 AM and 96.3 FM dial on your radio at 6:00 PM
8:00 PM Service will be First Communion for our Confirmands

Good Friday (April 3)

Services are 1:00 PM & 6:30 PM

The 1:00 PM service can be heard on the 730 AM and 96.3 FM dial on your radio at 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday (April 5)

Services are 6:00, 7:30, 9:00 AM (Traditional) -
10:30 AM (Contemporary)

All with Holy Communion

The 6:00 AM service can be heard live on the 730 AM and 96.3 FM dial on your radio
and the 9:00 service will be broadcast at 10:30 AM

Renewal Sunday at Trinity — March 15

Trinity invites you to join us for **Renewal Sunday** on **Sunday, March 15**, at both worship services at **8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

Renewal Sunday is an opportunity for us to reflect on Trinity's Capital Campaign, launched just over a year ago, and to give thanks for the many ways God has blessed our congregation throughout this past year. It has been an exciting season of growth at Trinity — from welcoming new staff, including a new Pastor and Director of Christian Education, to installing our new church sign, reducing debt, and beginning our parking lot project. We are deeply grateful for everyone who has supported the Capital Campaign through prayer, generosity, and encouragement. If you have already made a pledge, thank you for your faithful commitment. If you have not yet made a pledge, there is still an opportunity to participate and be part of what God continues to accomplish through Trinity. Together, we will reflect on how far God has brought us, look forward with hope to the future He is preparing, and give praise and thanksgiving for His abundant blessings. We hope you will join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness and renew our commitment to *Carrying Christ to the Congregation and Community*.