



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

March 15, 2026 - 8:00 AM - Matins  
*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*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.*

## OPENING HYMN

*"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 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 Righ - teous - 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.

*Kejram*



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

## VERSICLES

A O Lord, open my lips,

C **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

A 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, Lamb of our salvation.**

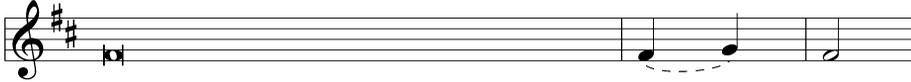
## PSALMODY

A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

## VENITE

LSB 220

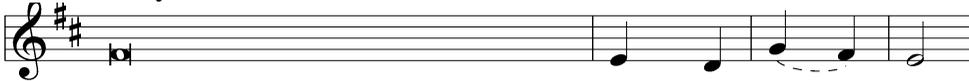


1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,

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

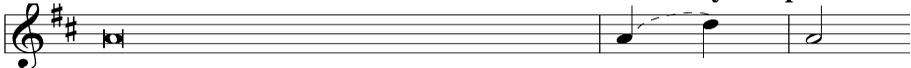


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

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;



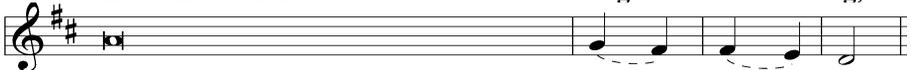
1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,

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

A Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup> I will lay waste mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup> And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup> They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." <sup>18</sup> Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup> Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? <sup>20</sup> He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup> The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup> For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### HOLY GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

P The Holy Gospel reading according to St. John the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>9</sup> As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup> and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a

division among them. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### LENT RESPONSORY

A We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

A Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people**

A We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### *"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"*

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

## 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

### 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](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://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 God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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.  
C **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

LSB 228

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

LSB 228

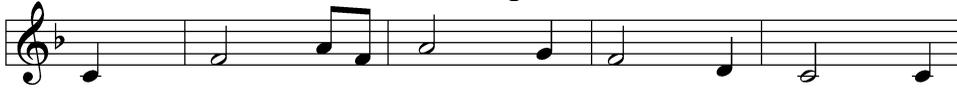
P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

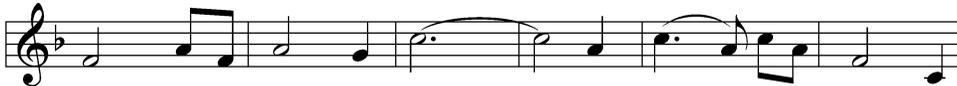
## CLOSING HYMN

### “Amazing Grace”

LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati Text and tune: Public domain

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**Today's Radio Broadcast** is sponsored in celebration of the 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Allan & Chris Schult on March 23.

**The Flowers on the altar** are sponsored by Amy Hanneman & Mary Jo Rajek.

**Lenten Lunches** are being served each Wednesday throughout Lent. Lunch will be served at 11:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a simple meal and meaningful conversation with fellow members.

**Lenten Dinners** are served on 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. Please let us plan your dinner before service. Come join us.

**SPREAD THE WORD.... Tell your friends and your family to 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!

**EASTER BREAKFAST** - Continue with your Easter tradition or start a new one with your family! 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. A Free Will Offering will be accepted.



### **Secret Prayer Support**

It's soon Easter Reveal Time!

It's hard to believe that April is here already; this year we get to celebrate Christ's resurrection on April 5! All of you who signed up for our Secret Prayer Support Program, please remember that Easter time is when you send a signed card to the person you have been praying for throughout Lent, revealing your identity. This is very important as people really want to know who gave of their time to pray for them. So, pick up a card, or make your own, but do get it in the mail at Easter Time! Thank you to each person who signed up to give this gift of prayer to another worshipper here at Trinity. May the Lord continue to bless you as you walk with Him!

**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 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM and March 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 service. 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.

### **Renewal Sunday is TODAY 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 to 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*.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**We are looking for assistance with the last Lenten Supper (5:00-6:30 PM) of the season on March 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 can assist in any way.**



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@tlsmerrill.com](mailto:trinitypto@tlsmerrill.com)

