



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

MAUNDY *Thursday*

“Carrying Christ to our Congregation and Community”

Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 2, 2026 – 1:00 & 6:30 PM
“Bow Before the Servant King”

Sharing the message with us is Pastor Scott Gustafson and Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Liturgist. Eileen Hass is our organist.

AS WE GATHER Today, we enter the holy Three Days. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are not separate acts, but one great saving drama—one continuous service of Christ’s redeeming work. We begin here in the upper room, where, as recorded in Gospel of John 13:1–17, our Lord rises from supper, lays aside His garments, and kneels to wash His disciples’ feet. The eternal Son bows low. The King of heaven becomes the servant of sinners.

Under tonight’s theme, *“Bow Before the Servant King,”* we behold the glory of Jesus hidden in humility. He stoops to cleanse what we cannot cleanse. He serves in love “to the end.” Today He gives not only an example, but Himself—His true Body and Blood—for the forgiveness of sins.

Because these Three Days are one service, there will be no benediction this evening. The liturgy will continue in silence as Psalm 22 is sung by a soloist and the altar is stripped, reminding us that the Servant King who kneels to wash will soon be stripped and lifted up for our salvation. We depart in quiet reverence, awaiting the continuation of this holy service tomorrow at the foot of the cross.

HYMN: ***“When You Woke That Thursday Morning”*** LSB 445 vs. 1-3

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|--|---|
| <p>1. <i>When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.</i></p> | <p>2. <i>Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.</i></p> |
| <p>3. <i>What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”</i></p> | |

GREETING

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.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 43:4; 124:8

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

LSB, pp 290-91

P In this Great and Holy Week, tonight we enter the Three Holy Days of our Lord's Passion. We begin where the Lord and His first disciples began, celebrating the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover with the institution of the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is well that we complete our Lenten discipline this night by examining ourselves, confessing our sins, and receiving forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Therefore, let us implore God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray... O Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night You stooped low to wash the feet of Your disciples and gave them Your holy Supper, revealing Yourself as the Servant who loves to the very end. Grant us grace to bow the knee before You in humble repentance and steadfast faith.
- C **Fix our eyes upon You, who humbled Yourself even to death on a cross, and shape us into servants who love as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(The Passover)*

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *(The Lord's Supper)*

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL (*The Passover and institution of the Lord's Supper*) **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

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

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

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

“When You Woke That Thursday Morning”

LSB 445; vs.4 & 5

4. *One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev'ry place and time.*

5. *One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.*

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SERMON “Bow Before the Servant King”

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)*

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

5

- 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.**

PROPER PREFACE

- 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, who, on this most holy night, who on this holy night humbled Himself to serve His disciples and, in steadfast love, instituted the sacred feast of His body and blood, that we might receive the fruits of His saving passion. As He bowed low in mercy to cleanse and redeem us, so grant that we bow the knee before Him in grateful faith, until with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

LSB p. 195

- C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy upon us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us to keep the feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.
Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

LSB p. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
 2 What is this wine? The blood of
 3 So who am I, That I should
 4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
 5 Is this for me? I am for -

ris - en from the dead: This bread we break,
 Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
 live and He should die Un - der the rod?
 Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
 giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve

This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
 Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
 My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
 He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
 That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His

lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
 sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
 me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
 meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
 blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

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“Thy Body Given for Me, O Savior”

LSB 619

1. Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. **(Refrain)**

**Refrain Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

2. With Thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in Thee. **(Refrain)**
3. Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. **(Refrain)**

4. Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e'er is near.
(Refrain)

5. My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. **(Refrain)**

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“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

LSB 622

1. *Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.*
2. *Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,*
3. *Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.*
4. *We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.*

5. *Though reason cannot understand,
Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now
At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be;
Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.*
6. *Lord, I believe what You have said;
Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.*
7. *Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.*
8. *For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessèd comfort unto me
When living and when dying.*

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DISMISSAL

NUNC DIMITTIS- Song of Simeon

LSB pg. 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

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.**

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

On Maundy Thursday the service concludes with the ceremony of the Stripping of the Altar. Why is this done? The Stripping of the Altar, the removing of all the ornaments, linens, and paraments, is an ancient custom of the church. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly; prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, beating, crowning with thorns, spitting, mockery, the trudge to Golgotha and shameful death. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death “for us men and for our salvation”. We leave the church in uneasy silence, forbidden the usual words of greeting, encouragement, appreciation for the sermon, the music, the small-talk that makes us feel at home. We do all of this to ready our hearts and minds to meditate on Christ’s death tomorrow.

As worship leaders and altar guild members strip the altar, we listen to the prophetic words of Psalm 22 and then leave in silence, returning tomorrow to continue this service of worship.

P David was inspired to write Psalm 22, which Jesus may have prayed on the cross.

We use it to end this service.

SOLO: Chanting of Psalm 22

THE DEPARTURE *The congregation is invited to leave in silence*

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Join us for Our Special Holy Week Services

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