



# TRINITY MERRILL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

**April 3, 2026 – 1:00 & 6:30 PM**  
**“Every Knee at Calvary”**

**Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be leading us in worship today. Pastor Scott Gustafson is our Liturgist and Polly Schneider is our organist.**

**AS WE GATHER** This Good Friday, beneath the shadow of the cross, we gather with “Every Knee at Calvary.” Tonight, we stand with the centurion, the women, and all creation as the Son of God breathes His last. Here at the cross, pride is silenced, sin is exposed, and every knee—whether in mockery, indifference, fear, or faith—is brought low before the crucified Christ. Tonight, we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In reverent silence and repentant hearts, we bow before Him whose death is our life, whose suffering is our salvation, and whose cross is our only hope.

### PREPARATION

- A Let us bow the knee before the crucified Christ and confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **Almighty God, darkness covered the land when Your Son was lifted up on the cross. We confess that our sin brought Him there.**
- A At Calvary every knee is brought low—the soldier’s knee, hardened by duty; the passerby’s knee, bent in mockery; the disciple’s knee, weakened by fear.
- C **Our knees, too, have failed to bow in faithful obedience. We have mocked Your Word by our actions, denied You by our silence, and loved our own will more than Yours.**
- A When Jesus cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” He bore the judgment we deserved.
- C **For the sake of His bitter suffering and death, forgive us, merciful Father. For the sake of His holy wounds, have mercy on us. Bring us to bow before Him not in terror, but in repentance and faith.**

### *(Silence for reflection.)*

- P “Truly this Man was the Son of God.” So confessed the centurion at the foot of the cross. Upon this confession we also stand. 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.**
- P Every knee at Calvary bows before the crucified Son of God. In His death you are forgiven. In His forsakenness you are received. In His cross you have peace.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

## SALUTATION

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Almighty and everlasting God, at the hour of darkness You gave Your only-begotten Son to suffer and die upon the cross for our salvation. When every knee was brought low at Calvary—in fear, in mockery, in sorrow, and at last in confession—You revealed Him to be truly Your Son and the Savior of the world. Grant that we, who bow before His cross in repentance and faith, may trust in His forsaken cry as our redemption, cling to His finished work as our only hope, and confess with the centurion that Jesus Christ is Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE *“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

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *“Every Knee shall Bow”*

**Isaiah 45:22-25**

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’ <sup>24</sup> “Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. <sup>25</sup> In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**(6:30 PM) SPECIAL MUSIC “Calvary”** by the Holiday Choir

**EPISTLE** *(God made Jesus to Be Sin.)*

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of

reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

Isaiah 53:4

A Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

C **yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *(Jesus dies)*

Mark 15:33-41

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

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

<sup>33</sup> And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup> And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup> There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

LSB 425

- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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?*
- 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!*

## SERMON “Every Knee at Calvary”

### 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 include your last names and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)*

### THE TENEBRAE SEQUENCE

*“The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ”*

#### THE FIRST WORD

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

P God did not spare His own Son,

C **But gave Him up for us all.**

A “He 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.” (*Isaiah 53:3*)

A And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”** And they cast lots to divide His garments. (*Luke 23:33-34*)

P O innocent Jesus, by false witness and lies You were condemned to death, but by Your true witness You showed us the way of life. Make us to remember how our sins and evil words and thoughts condemn us and let us not be found false and faithless on the day when God holds court.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”**

LSB 440 vs. 1, 4, 5

1. *Jesus, I will ponder now  
On Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.*
4. *Grant that I Your passion view  
With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to You  
By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun  
Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son  
Suffered without measure?*
5. *If my sins give me alarm  
And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won  
By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son,  
God must have compassion!* Text: Public domain

**(THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

**THE SECOND WORD**

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;  
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P Jesus has said,  
C **“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple”.**
- A Surely he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. *(Isaiah 53:4)*  
There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”  
One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, **“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”** *(Luke 23:38-43)*
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, You said, “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Grant us grace to bear whatever cross may be ours to carry; and grant that by Your cross the world may be crucified to us and we to the world, and that through Your cross and passion we may gain life everlasting.  
C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Jesus , In Your Dying Woes”**

LSB 447 verses 4, 5, 6

4. *Jesus, pitying the sighs  
Of the thief, who near You dies,  
Promising him paradise:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.*
5. *May we in our guilt and shame  
Still Your love and mercy claim,  
Calling humbly on Your name:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.*
6. *May our hearts to You incline  
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.  
Cheer our souls with hope divine:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.*

Text: Public domain

**(THE SECOND CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

**THE THIRD WORD**

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;  
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P The Lord has laid on Him the guilt of us all.  
C **He was smitten for the people’s transgressions.**
- A But he was wounded 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. (*Isaiah 53:5*)  
But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Woman, behold, your son!”** Then he said to the disciple, **“Behold, your mother!”** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (*John 19:25-27*)
- P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, You have said: “Take My yoke upon You and learn from Me; for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Grant that, as You bore Your cross willingly for love of us, we may bear our cross for the love of You.  
C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Upon the Cross Extended”**

LSB 453 vs. 1, 5, 7

1. *Upon the cross extended  
See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields His breath.  
The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.*
5. *Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
You healed my wounds and set me free.*
7. *Your cross I place before me;  
Its saving pow’r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending,*

*Be guiding and attending  
My way to Your eternal rest.* Text: Public domain

**(THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

**THE FOURTH WORD**

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;  
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P Those who sow in tears  
C **Shall reap with shouts of joy.**
- A All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned---every one---to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (*Isaiah 53:6*)
- And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, **“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”** which means, **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”** (*Mark 15:33-34*)
- P Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us a new and contrite heart, that we, lamenting our sins and holding to Your mercy, may receive full forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C **Amen.**

**HYMN:** **“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”** LSB 437 vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Alas! And did my Savior bleed,<br/>And did my sov'reign die?<br/>Would He devote that sacred head<br/>For such a worm as I?</i>  | 4. <i>Thus might I hide my blushing face<br/>While His dear cross appears,<br/>Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,<br/>And melt mine eyes to tears.</i> |
| 2. <i>Was it for crimes that I had done<br/>He groaned upon the tree?<br/>Amazing pity, grace unknown,<br/>And love beyond degree!</i> | 5. <i>But drops of grief can ne'er repay<br/>The debt of love I owe;<br/>Here, Lord, I give myself away:<br/>'Tis all that I can do.</i>               |

Text: Public domain

**(THE FOURTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

**THE FIFTH WORD**

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;  
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P They have pierced My hands and feet.  
C **I can count all My bones; they stare and gloat over Me.**
- A Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see His offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. (*Isaiah 53:10*)
- After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), **“I thirst.”** (*John 19:28*)

P O Lord Jesus Christ, nailed to the cross for us, crucify in us all that is evil. With Your precious blood cleanse us from all our sins, renew a right spirit within us, and strengthen our hearts to forgive.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”**

LSB 451 vs. 1, 3, 4

1. *Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.*

3. *Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
See who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.*

4. *Here we have a firm foundation,  
Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,  
Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.*

Text: Public domain

**(THE FIFTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

### **THE SIXTH WORD**

P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;

C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**

P Surely He has borne our griefs.

C **And carried our sorrows.**

A Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (*Isaiah 53:11*)

A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **“It is finished,”** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (*John 19:29-30*)

P Let us pray. Gracious and loving Father, as You listened to Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the midst of His agony and suffering, so hear the cries of Your people and teach us in all humility and obedience to call on You in all our needs, trusting that You will never leave us nor forsake us.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Go To Dark Gethsemane”**

LSB 436 vs. 1, 2, 3

1. *Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*
2. *Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.*
3. *Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God’s own sacrifice complete.  
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.* Text: Public domain

**(THE SIXTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

**THE SEVENTH WORD**

- P We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You;  
C **By Your cross and precious death You have redeemed the world.**
- P Christ, for our sake, became obedient to the point of death,  
C **Even death on a cross.**
- A He poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (*Isaiah 53:12b*)  
Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”** And having said this he breathed his last. (*Luke 23:46*)
- P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, out of tender love toward Your creation, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to become our flesh and to suffer death on the cross. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of His patience and also be made partakers of His resurrection.  
C **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**“Were You There”**

LSB 456 vs. 1, 2, 3

- 1 *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*
- 2 *Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh . . .*

*Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?*

- 3 *Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh . . .  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?*

Text: Public domain

### **(THE SEVENTH CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED)**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Whispered by all)

- 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 TENEBRAE SERVICE**

#### **(THE CHRIST CANDLE IS CARRIED FROM THE CHANCEL.)** *[Isaiah 53:12 is read]*

- P "Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and makes intercession for the transgressors."

#### **THE TOMB:**

The Christ candle is taken out of the sanctuary just as our Lord's body was taken away and placed in a grave provided by Joseph of Arimathea.

#### **THE STRIPETUS:**

The sound of a loud noise signifies that with the sealed tomb, the meaning of the cross is fulfilled, the sacrifice is complete, and the Scriptures are fulfilled.

#### **THE TEARING OF THE CURTAIN:**

The veil that separated God's presence from His people is torn from top to bottom.

#### **THE EARTHQUAKE:**

The whole earth trembles at the death of God's Son. The very rocks are torn apart at the death of the Savior.

#### **THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

The Christ candle is returned to the altar to remind us that the death of Christ is NOT the end of His ministry and is symbolic of the eternal light of His love for us.

#### **THE DEPARTURE:**

**After the Christ candle returns to the chancel and a time of silent prayer and meditation, the congregation begins to leave the sanctuary in silence.**

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Patsy Travis in loving memory of husband, Wayne (Sid) Travis, who has spent the last 32 years in heaven with his Savior.



Easter Sunday (April 5)

**“Every Knee Will Bow”**  
**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 730 AM and 96.3 FM dial on your radio and the 9:00 service will be broadcast at 10:30 AM

**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. A Free Will Offering will be accepted.



**Secret Prayer Support ~ It's 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 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!