



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

April 12, 2026 - 10:30 AM
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Chapa. Pastor Gustafson is our Liturgist.

AS WE GATHER “Seeking dedicated worker. Suffering not optional.” If we were to read that simple line in a job posting, it certainly would give us pause. People generally want to avoid suffering at any cost. Scripture reminds us that there may be a dynamic of discomfort to faith-filled living that follows the call of the risen Savior. In his hymn text “Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake” from the 1600s, Johann Scheffler concludes, “Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain” (LSB 688:5). The challenges of the twenty-first century may differ from those of the seventeenth, but they are just as real. Our Lord promises that He is always with us on our life’s journey. With Easter joy, we travel onward together toward His glorious heavenly kingdom!

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds ”

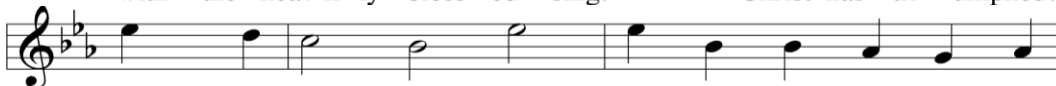
LSB 465



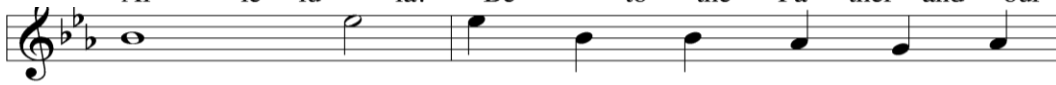
1 Now all the vault of heav’n re - sounds In
2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



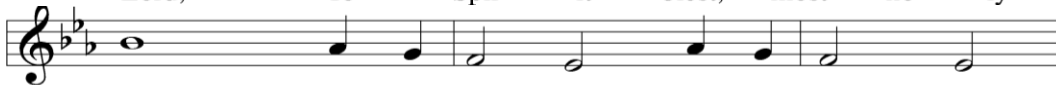
praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav’n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life’s
Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
life And by His pres - ence stills all
day That by our lives we tru - ly
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Romans 6:9; John 20-29b; Psalm 145:1,5 6b

Pastor: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

People: **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

People: **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Micah 6:6-8

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

People: **“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**

Pastor: “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

People: **“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”**

Pastor: He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

People: **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

MONTHLY VERSE (Matthew 28:5-6)

“Do not be afraid; I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay.”

SONG

“Majesty”

*Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honor and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise
So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings*

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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 Acts 5:29-42

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

HOLY GOSPEL READING John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SONG OF THE DAY "Our God Reigns (How Lovely On the Mountains)"

Vs.1 *How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of Him
Who brings good news good news
Announcing peace
Proclaiming news of happiness
Our God reigns our God reigns*

Chorus ***Our God reigns our God reigns
Our God reigns our God reigns***

Vs.2 *He had no stately form
He had no majesty
That we should be drawn to Him
He was despised
And we took no account of Him
Yet now He reigns with the Most High*

(Chorus)

Vs.3 *It was our sin and guilt
That bruised and wounded Him
It was our sin that brought Him down
When we like sheep had gone astray
Our Shepherd came
And on His shoulders bore our shame*

(Chorus)

Vs.4 *Meek as a lamb
That's led out to the slaughterhouse
Dumb as a sheep before its shearer
His life ran down
Upon the ground like pouring rain
That we might be born again*

Chorus *Our God reigns our God reigns
Our God reigns our God reigns*

Vs.5 Out of the tomb
He came with grace and majesty
He is alive He is alive
God loves us so see here
His hands His feet His side
Yes we know He is alive

(Chorus)

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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.trinitymerill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. (When filling out the attendance book – please include your last name and list the names of all in attendance in your family)

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

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477



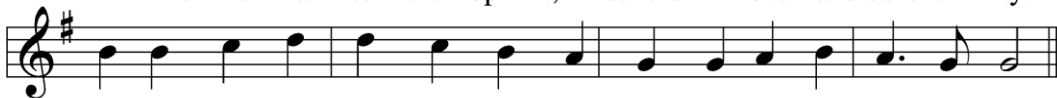
1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG**“The Day of Resurrection”**

LSB 478 vs. 3 & 4



3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
 △ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
 All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
 And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

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The radio broadcast is sponsored is sponsored by Dennis ;& Jocelynn Weber in loving memory of their parents.

The flowers on the altar today are sponsored in in celebration of the 90th birthday of Denvert Woller (April 7) and in loving memory of the birthday of Patsy Woller (April 3)

Living River Community Concert**Sunday, April 26th at Faith Lutheran Church.**

The concert will be at 6:30 p.m. with a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Merrill Food Pantry suggested. *Ice Cream Social following the concert with vanilla ice cream with various toppings.*

THE 10th ANNUAL PTO AUCTION and DINNER Saturday, April 25th, at the Merrill Expo Center. Tickets are \$50 which include dinner and drinks. Dinner is at 5:30PM. Tickets are available for purchase after worship services, the school office or the church office.

Trinity is offering **summer care for school aged children** who have completed Kindergarten up to completed 4th grade students. We are offering up adventure and fun – Contact School for more information.

SAVE THE DATE – Rainforest Falls – Trinity VBS is coming June 22- 26th. Volunteers are needed. Please call the church office if you would like to help by being a part of this fun exploration of the nature of God and His children.