



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

April 26, 2026 - 10:30 AM
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Preacher today with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist

AS WE GATHER One of the longest lasting of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was the Pharos Lighthouse that was constructed at the entry of the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century BC. Although weakened by a series of earthquakes, it remained standing in part until AD 1480. Initially, its source of light was the brightness of the sun reflected in a great mirror by day and the flames of a great wood fire reflected by the same mirror at night. The gradual disintegration of the tower, initially some 330 feet in height, finally extinguished its light. As He spoke with His disciples, Jesus described Himself as the light that never will be extinguished. John reports: "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). On our journey through this dark world, we are blessed to have the light of Christ as our unfailing guide. It truly is the light no darkness can overcome.

PRE-SERVICE: "Yes and Amen" Praise Team #61 Key of D
"Song in My Soul" Praise Team #41 Key of D

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG "Lead On Good Shepherd" #81 Key of F

Vs.1 Well I've been turned 'round
But I've never been lost
Seen the water get troubled
But we walked across
When my knees were shaking
You held my hand
Turning my problems
To a promised land

Glory glory hallelujah
Yeah that's my song
Walking with my Father
Into the great unknown

(Chorus)

Bridge Step by step day by day
Lead me on Lord I pray
Road gets dark walk by faith
Lead on Good Shepherd
(Repeat)

(Chorus and Bridge)

Chorus Lead on Good Shepherd
I'll follow all my days
There ain't nothing sweeter
Than to watch You make a way
You've walked me through the valley
But You never steered me wrong
So lead on Good Shepherd lead on

Ending Lead on Good Shepherd lead on Good Shepherd
Lead on Good Shepherd lead on Good Shepherd
Lead on Good Shepherd lead on

Vs.2 Seen some mighty deep canyons
That You brought me through
Seen some mighty big mountains
That just up and moved

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:1–2, 5–6, 9, 11*

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

People: I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.”

Pastor: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

People: You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1–2, 7*

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: You covered all their sin.

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

Pastor: I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

People: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Pastor: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

People: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

People: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. 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.

Pastor: I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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."

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

GOSPEL READING John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

SONG OF THE DAY

“Goodness Love and Mercy”

#18 Key of F

Vs. *Oh Lord You're my Shepherd
You make me lie in fields of green
You lead me by the still waters
You restore righteousness to me
Though I walk through the valley
I will fear no evil thing
For You are with me and You comfort me*

(Repeat Verse & Chorus)

Bridge *I'm gonna dwell in the house of the Lord
forever
(Repeat 3X)
(Chorus 1x)*

Chorus *Surely goodness love and mercy
Will follow wherever I go
(Repeat 2X)*

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MESSAGE

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.

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) “Goodness Love and Mercy”

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.

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

“The Table” #66 Key of G

Vs.1 *I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table
(Repeat)*

Chorus *Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)*

Vs.2 *There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table*

Vs.3 *There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table*

(Chorus)

Bridge *I know He has a place for me
Oh what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God*

(Chorus)

Vs.4 *I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says come just as you are to His table*

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“At the Cross (Love Ran Red)” (Instrumental) #73 Key of G

COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“House of the Lord” #65 Key of A

Vs.1 *We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory yeah*

Chorus *There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise*

Interlude *Oh oh oh
We shout out Your praise*

Vs.2 *We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away*

(Chorus)

Bridge *('Cause) We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise
(Repeat)*

Chorus 2x)

Ending *We shout out Your praise
There is joy in this house
There is joy in this house today
We shout out Your praise
We shout out Your praise*

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Deb Stadler Gapko in loving memory of Don Stadler.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Dennis and Sharon Karow in celebration of their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

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 the 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.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Trinity Church or are you a member and would like to have a refresher of “What We Believe”? Pastor Jon is leading a new member / refresher class. What are the basics of the Bible? What is a creed? How do Law and Gospel apply to my life today? What do we believe as LCMS Lutherans? If you are asking any of these questions, we invite you to come to our new Member class. It did start on April 19th, but we would welcome you to join us this week. It is a 7-session course that will go over what we teach about Law and Gospel, the Creeds, the Means of Grace, and what our lives look like as Christians here and now. We invite anyone who is seeking to learn more about what we believe and wanting to become a new member to join us!
Sessions: Sundays @ 9:15 am - Location: Youth Room Downstairs - Length: 6 sessions to go.

ALTAR GUILD The final Altar Guild meeting before the summer is Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30 in the church social room. Anyone who is interested in helping take care of our Lord's Altar is welcome to attend for devotion, short business meeting, and fellowship with fellow Trinity members. Hostesses for the evening are Kathy Palazzo, Grace Frick and Renee Williams.

Join us for a delicious way to support Trinity Lutheran School! On Thursday, May 7, head to Culver's in Merrill between 4:00–8:00 PM, where a percentage of all sales during that time will go directly toward supporting our students and mission. Whether you're craving a ButterBurger, fresh frozen custard, or your favorite comfort meal, every purchase makes a difference. Bring your family, invite your friends, and help us turn dinner into a fundraiser—your support means so much to our school community!

Calling all singles! This event is for you. Come and join us!

Looking for Other Single Lutherans? Join fellow LCMS singles (ages 20–45, never married or widowed) for fellowship, fun activities, and Bible study at The Gospel Gym in Arkansaw, WI on Saturday, June 13, 2026, 11 AM - 7 PM, with optional worship, meal, and fellowship on Sunday, June 14. Make connections, share encouragement, and find a place to belong! Cost: \$25 (includes meals). Register at www.lcmssingles.com or (763) 242-6335. Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. More details at this link: <https://lcmssingles.com/>

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Dorcas will be collecting new or lightly used children's clothing (size infant to 5T) and shoes from May 1st through Mother's Day, May 10th. There will be a pack-n-play in the narthex for items. The clothing will be given to Orphan Grain Train for distribution to families in need. Thank you for caring!

"I was naked and you clothed Me...." Matt. 25:36

LADIES AID – Ladies, join us for our Ladies' Aid meeting on April 30 at 1 pm. In the church Fellowship Hall.