



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

May 3, 2026 - 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM D.S. 1  
*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson with Pastor Jon Chapa as Liturgist.  
(6:00 PM) **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** “*Jesus Shall Reign*” by the Firm Foundation Ringers

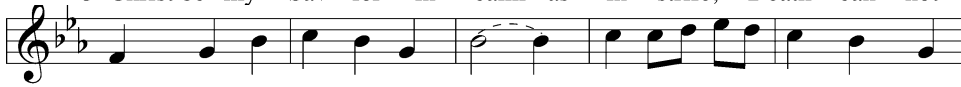
## OPENING HYMN

### “Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Tune: Irish Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698Tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

A In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit  
C **Amen.**

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what**

**we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

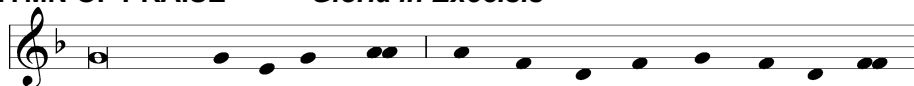
**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria in Excelsis”**

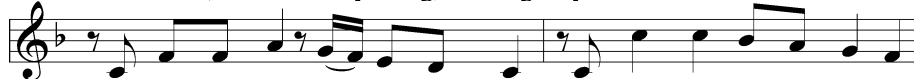
LSB 154



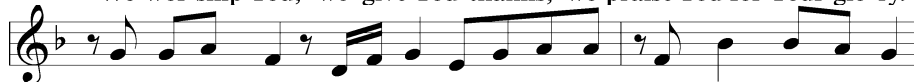
**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



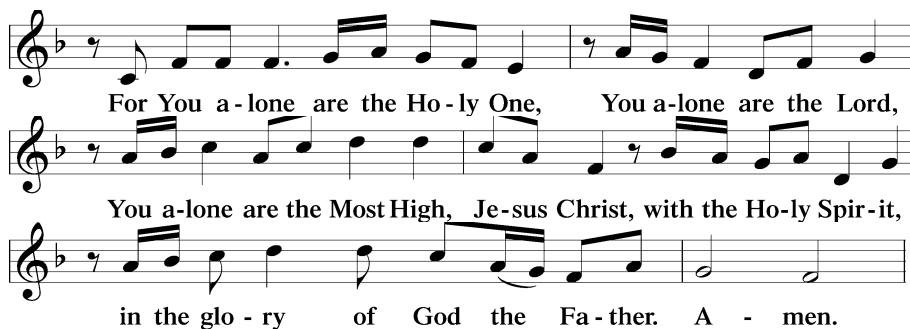
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,  
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## SALUTATION

- A The Lord be with you.  
 C **And also with you.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

- A Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

<sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

<sup>51</sup>"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous

One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,<sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(6:00 PM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** “*Be Thou My Vision*” by the Firm Foundation Ringers

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### EPISTLE

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

# HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fourteenth chapter.

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

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

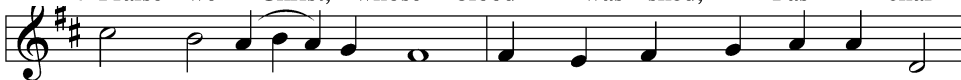
## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5. Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce powers beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

6. Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!

7. Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!

8. Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

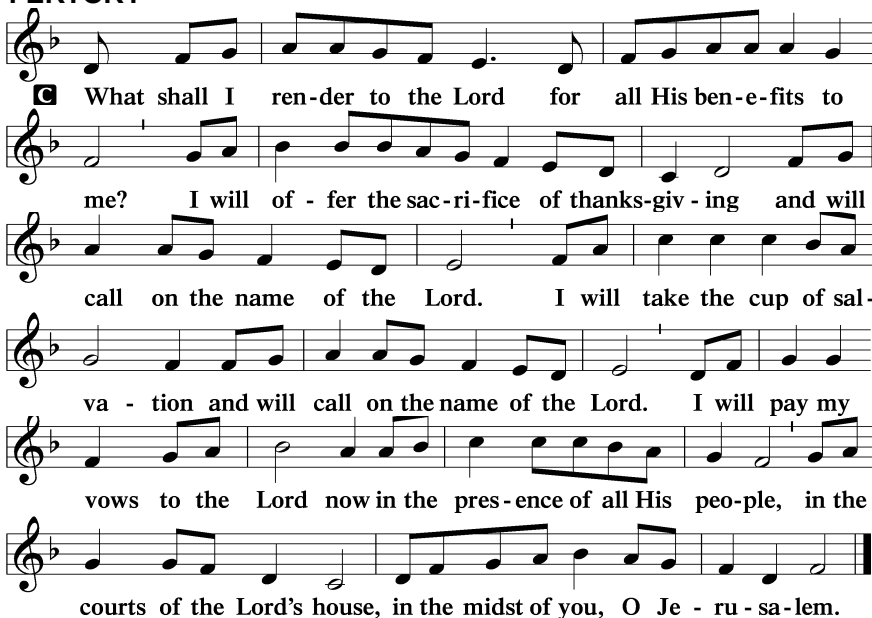
### APOSTLES' CREED

**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 / (6:00 PM) SPECIAL MUSIC

**"Lift High The Cross"** by the Firm Foundation Ringers. *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)*

### OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## 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.

## BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

LSB 739

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;  
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
When my life is al - most gone,  
And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.  
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.  
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text and tune: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Text and tune: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

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**Today's radio broadcast** is sponsored in loving memory of Leslie Smith by Mike & Bob Grunenwald and family.

**The flowers on the altar** are sponsored by Jeremy & Jan Thompson

Trinity is offering **summer care for school aged children** who have completed Kindergarten up to completed 4<sup>th</sup> 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- 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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!

### **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**

**QUILT SHOW AND SALE-** The Annual Quilt Show is back and will be held Mother's Day, May 10! Quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary and narthex. We will have over 200 quilts! The quilts are available for sale. The proceeds of the sale will be donated to Orphan Grain Train and Trinity. Bed size quilts are available for a minimum donation of \$75; small quilts \$50 and fleece blankets \$30. Since we began this show, we have been able to donate over \$5,000 back to Trinity and to Orphan Grain Train. Thank you for your generosity! We have again been blessed this year with funding from Thrivent dollars. All quilts are "cash and carry" and first come, first served. There will be some "special" quilts which will be tagged with a different price. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Church. Early Monday morning all remaining quilts will be packed and taken to St. Mark's, Wausau for shipment to Orphan Grain Train. Someone from the Quilters will be present at each service to assist you. If you see a quilt you really enjoy, it can be yours for a donation. Just see someone from the Quilters. If you have any questions, even prior to the sale, contact Carol at 715/536-5224 or Kay at 715/536-3343.

### **Circuit 6 Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build**

Please join the Merrill area LCMS churches on June 27th from 9am-1pm at the Merrill Sell Building! Sign up will be located in the Narthex. We will be constructing beds for those in the Merrill area that do not have a bed! Our goal is to build 50 beds this year. \$250 builds a bunk bed. Special donation envelopes can be found at the Adopt a Bill sign in the Narthex. Checks are payable to SHP- Spencer Chapter. Donations of twin sized bedding are also needed and can be dropped off with Steph Chapa. Please contact Steph at [dce@trinitymerrill.com](mailto:dce@trinitymerrill.com) with any questions!