



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

May 3, 2026 - 10:30 AM
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

PRE-SERVICE: *“Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)”* (Praise Team) **#6 Key of D**
 “Build Your Kingdome Here” (Praise Team) **#12 Key of C**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG *“The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)”* **#76 Key of E**

Vs. *Father let your kingdom come (holy holy)*
 Father let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven (let it be done)
 Right here in my heart
 (Repeat)

Bridge *It's yours it's yours*
 All yours all yours
 The kingdom the power
 The glory are yours

Chorus *Give us this day our daily bread*
 Forgive us forgive us
 As we forgive the ones who sinned
 Against us forgive them
 And lead us not into temptation
 But deliver us from the evil one
 Let your kingdom come

It's yours it's yours
All yours all yours
Forever and ever
The kingdom is yours
(Repeat)

(Verse with Repeat)

(Verse with Repeat)

(Chorus)

Tag *On Earth as in Heaven*
 Right here in my heart

CCLI Song # 7200544, Bryan Fowler | Jacob Sooter | Matt Maher, © Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), Caroco Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), Just When Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), RELWOF (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 188086

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

People: **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

People: **In wisdom have You made them all.**

Pastor: May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

People: **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. 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.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (Acts 2:38)

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

SONG

“We Believe”

#58 Key of D

Vs.1 *In this time of desperation
When all we know is doubt and fear
There is only one foundation
We believe we believe
In this broken generation
When all is dark You help us see
There is only one salvation
We believe we believe*

Chorus *We believe in God the Father
We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit
And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion
We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection
And He's coming back again
(We believe)*

Vs.2 *So let our faith be more than anthems
Greater than the songs we sing
In our weakness and temptations
We believe we believe*

(Chorus)

Bridge *Let the lost be found and the dead be raised
In the here and now let love invade
Let the church live loud our God will save
We believe we believe
And the gates of hell will not prevail
For the pow'r of God has torn the veil
Now we know Your love will never fail
We believe we believe*

(Chorus)

Ending *He's coming back again
He's coming back again
We believe we believe*

CCLI Song # 6367165, Matthew Hooper | Richie Fike | Travis Ryan, © Integrity Worship Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)), Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)), Life Worship (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)), Travis Ryan Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)), For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 188086

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.

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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ 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. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ 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.

⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ 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.

² 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,

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² 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, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ 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. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

GOSPEL READING John 14:1-14

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “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. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

SONG OF THE DAY

“Battle Belongs”

#56 Key of D

Vs.1 *When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You*

*When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb*

(Chorus)

Chorus *So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You*

Bridge *(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
(Repeat Twice)*

(Chorus)

Vs.2 *And if You are for me
Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing
Impossible for You*

Tag O God the battle belongs to You

CCLI Song # 7148126, Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham, © Phil Wickham Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]), Simply Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]), Sing My Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]), Bethel Music Publishing. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License # 188086

MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING (Instrumental) “Battle Belongs”

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)

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"I Will Follow"

18 Key of F

Intro *Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow*

Vs.1 *All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in You alone*

Chorus ***Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow (You)
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow (You)
(Yeah I will follow You yeah)***

Vs.2 *Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone*

(Chorus)

Bridge *In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy unending joy
And I will follow*

Chorus 2x

*I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah*

CCLI Song # 5806878, Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Reuben Morgan, © 2010 SHOUT! Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Spirit Nashville Three (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), Spirit Nashville Three (Admin. by Spirit Music Group) CCLI License # 188086

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 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.

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

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/>

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 with any questions!

The flyer features the Lincoln County Health Department logo at the top left. The main title is "New Vaccines Available for Adults with Medicare Part D". Below this, it lists four vaccine types: Tdap (Boostrix), Hep A (Havrix), Hep B (Hepelisav-B), and Shingles (Shingrix). A circular inset image shows a woman with short blonde hair looking at a small object, possibly a vaccine vial. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a URL: <https://bit.ly/4aBiluA>. Three blue arrows point to the right towards the QR code.