



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

August 9, 2026 - 10:30 AM
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the message with us today is Caleb Gustafson.

AS WE GATHER: The only way a sinful human being can dare to approach and worship an almighty God is if we also know that He is a God of mercy. God's mighty power is known from the vastness of His creation, the stars and seas, light and darkness, tempests and storms (Job 38). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). Yet we are told, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). "Therefore, the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you" (Isaiah 30:18). This "almighty and most merciful God" (Prayer of the Day) showed both His might and mercy when He became aware of His disciples' peril on a storm-tossed sea. Walking on water wasn't the point. It was the Lord's coming to save us in our fear and distress (Matthew 14). As the catechism says of God's commandments, "We should fear and love God." We can trust the God who has harnessed His wrath with His love. Greater love has no one than the God who joined us in our misery, took our sin upon Himself, and died our death but now is risen to save us from every evil that threatens us or makes us afraid.

PRE-SERVICE: *"Rising"*

Praise Team **#28 Key of D**

"House of the Lord"

Praise Team **#65 Key of A**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG

"Won't Stop Now" **#39 Key of E**

Vs.1 *I give You glory
For all You've brought me through
And now I'm ready
For whatever You want to do*

Vs.2 *I'm moving forward
To follow after You
And now I'm ready
For whatever You want to do*

Chorus ***Your presence is an open door
We want You Lord like never before
Your presence is an open door
So come now Lord like never before***

Vs.3 *In every season
Your grace has been enough
And I'm believing
The best is yet to come*

Vs.4 *The cross before me
My hope on things above
And in You Jesus
The best is yet to come*

(Chorus)

Bridge *I know breakthrough is coming
By faith I see a miracle
My God made me a promise
And it won't stop now
(Repeat 3X)*

(Chorus) *Note to Praise Team-tempo slows down to 108 and sing quietly*

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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 43:4; Matthew 14:30–31*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: “Lord, save me.”

People: **“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *Matthew 14:33*

Pastor: No doubt our needs are known by the God of mercy, chief of which is deliverance from sin and fear. Aware of our great need for forgiveness and faith, we cry out to our Creator and Redeemer.

People: **Lord, save me from my little faith, my doubt, my fears, my sin. I come to You now because You have promised to come to me here with Your saving grasp of power and mercy. Forgive me of my sin and give me help and deliverance from all my fears, that I may worship You with a pure heart and say, “Truly You are the Son of God” and my Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord your God has brought you out from the slavery of sin with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm of mercy by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His own command I announce to you as a called and ordained servant of the Word: I forgive you all your sins. Peace be with you, in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through 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 16:15-16)*

“(Jesus) said to them ‘But who do you say that I am?’

Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

SONG

“Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)”

#64 Key of A

Vs.1 *You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand*

Chorus ***And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine***

Vs.2 *Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now*

(Chorus)

Interlude *Oh, You are mine. Oh.*

Bridge *(Sing Bridge 3 Times)*

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour*

*I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine*

FIRST READING

Job 38:4-18

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹ when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’? ¹² “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. ¹⁶ “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.”

SECOND READING

Romans 10:5-17

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

SONG OF THE DAY

"No Longer Slaves"

#20 Key of F

Vs.1 *You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone*

Chorus *I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God*

Vs.2 *From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins*

Bridge *You split the sea so I could walk right
through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and
sing
I am a child of God
(Repeat)*

*I am a child of God
(Repeat 3 times)*

(Chorus 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) **"No Longer Slaves"**

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.) If you are a visitor and you are interested in membership, please add your email and phone number to the attendance pad.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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

“O Come To The Altar” #3 Key of G

Vs.1 *Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling*

Chorus ***O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ***

Vs.2 *Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling*

(Chorus)

Bridge *Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen*

(Chorus)

Vs.3 *Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found*

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“The Wonderful Cross” (Instrumental) #52 Key of D

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“Open Up The Heavens” #4 Key of Bb

Vs.1 *We've waited for this day
We're gathered in Your Name
Calling out to You
Your glory like a fire awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth*

Pre-Chorus ***You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing***

Chorus ***Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise***

Vs.2 *Your presence in this place Your glory
on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud You're standing
with us now
Lord unveil our eyes*

(Pre-Chorus & Chorus)

Bridge *Show us show us Your glory
Show us show us Your power
Show us show us Your glory Lord
(repeat Bridge)*

(Chorus (sing 2x))

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The radio broadcast today is sponsored by Allan and Christine Schult in loving memory of Carl and Ella Schult & Arlo and Dorothy Nelson.

The flowers on the altar are sponsored by Carol Holz for the blessings she has received.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Trinity is pleased to offer **free taxi rides to and from worship services** through Blue Jay Taxi. If you or someone you know could benefit from transportation assistance, simply call **715-921-4110** by **Wednesday** before the weekend service you plan to attend. When leaving your message, please include:

- Which worship service you will attend
- Your pick-up address
- How many people will need transportation to Trinity Church

Back to Confirmation! Calling all Confirmation instruction families! Join us for ONE of the orientation meetings: Wed., Aug. 19th at 6:30pm or Sun., Aug 23rd at 12pm. Also... attend our Confirmation Retreat at Stange's Park on Thurs., Aug. 27th from 9am-3pm. We can't wait to study God's word with you!

TRINITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

-Interested in enrolling your child at Trinity? Please call our school office at 715-536-7501 for more information about enrollment for the 2026-27 school year. We provide faith-based education, uphold academic excellence, emphasize service to others, embrace Christian family values, and have a compassionate staff. We are also part of the Wisconsin School Choice program and if you qualify, your child could attend Trinity for free! School Choice enrollment is open August 1-20th.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL MERRILL
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TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BLOCK PARTY

AUGUST 16TH
12:00-3:00 PM
NORMAL PARK

10:00 am Worship
Bring your backpack for a blessing during worship!

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND YARD GAMES AND JOIN US FOR THE TRINITY BLOCK PARTY! GATHER WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND FAMILY FOR A DAY OF FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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