



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa



**August 16 2026 10:00 AM
WORSHIP IN THE PARK**

Theme: "HEY, GOD! What about the people who don't go to church?"

Welcome to Worship We're glad you're here! Whether you are a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church, a first-time guest, a neighbor from our community, or someone who hasn't been to church in a while, thank you for joining us as we begin our annual Community Block Party with worship.

At Trinity, we believe that church is more than a building—it's God's people gathered around His Word and His promises. Today we've brought worship into the park as a reminder that the love of Jesus Christ is for everyone. Through His Word, Jesus welcomes us, forgives us, strengthens our faith, and invites us into His family.

Our theme today asks an important question:

"HEY, GOD! WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DON'T GO TO CHURCH?"

If you've ever wondered whether God has a place for you, the answer is yes. No one is beyond His love, His grace, or His invitation. Jesus came not for perfect people, but for sinners. He came for all people—including you.

Following worship, we invite you to stay and enjoy our Community Block Party! There will be food, music, inflatables, games, emergency vehicles to check out and activities for all ages with plenty of opportunities to meet new friends.

Thank you for being our guest today. We pray that you experience not only a wonderful day with your neighbors, but also the peace, hope, and joy that are found in Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Dear friends in Christ, as we gather before our holy God, we confess that we often fail to reflect His welcoming love. We have built walls where God desires open doors. We have overlooked people whom God desires to reach. We have failed to share the hope and forgiveness we have received through Jesus.

Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed to love You above all things and failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have been slow to welcome others and hesitant to share the good news of Jesus. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to walk in Your ways. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. For His sake He 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.**

P May the Lord strengthen your faith and fill your hearts with His peace.

C **Amen.**

SONG

“God So Loved”

#75 Key of E

Vs.1 *Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more*

Vs.2 *Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for*

Chorus 1 ***For God so loved the world that
He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever***

Vs.3 *Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms*

Chorus 2 ***For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live
forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world***

Bridge *Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love
(Repeat)*

Chorus 3 ***For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save
(Chorus 2)***

Vs.4 *Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the
cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray . . . Almighty and everlasting God, You desire all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Open our hearts to recognize the people around us who need the hope of Your Gospel. Give us courage to share the good news of Jesus Christ, who welcomes sinners, restores the broken, and gathers us into Your family. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may faithfully carry Christ into our congregation and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed.

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

⁸ The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

- P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

Romans 15:13-21

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written, “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

- P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

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

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

"Living Hope" #30 Key of A

Vs.1 *How great the chasm that lay
between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your
loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope*

Vs.2 *Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such
boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope*

Chorus ***Hallelujah praise the One who set
me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip
on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope***

Vs.3 *Then came the morning that sealed
the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)*

*Jesus Yours is the victory whoa
(Chorus (Sing Twice))*

Ending *Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope*

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SERMON "Hey, God! WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T GO TO CHURCH?"

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Together with Christians throughout the ages, we confess our faith:

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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

OFFERING

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

P People of God, go in peace carrying Christ to our congregation and your community

C **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING SONG

"I Am"

#69 Key of E

Vs.1 *There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place where we can't find peace
There's no end to amazing grace*

Bridge *This is my resurrection song
This is my hallelujah come
This is why it's to You I run
(Repeat)*

Vs.2 *Take me in with Your arms spread wide
Take me in like an orphan child
Never let go never leave my side*

*There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place where we can't find peace
There's no end to amazing grace*

Chorus *I am holding onto You
I am holding onto You
In the middle of the storm
I am holding on (I am)*

(Chorus 2X)

Vs.3 *Love like this O my God to find
I am overwhelmed with a joy divine
Love like this sets our hearts on fire*

Ending *I am
In the middle of the storm
I am holding on I am*

Today's Flowers are sponsored by Karen Radloff in loving memory of husband, Don Radloff and son, Russ Radloff.

If you are a visitor who is interested in membership at Trinity, please contact the church office at 715-536-5482. Thank you.

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 to and from Trinity Church, 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 address that you need the pick-up from and How many people will need transportation to Trinity Church.

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
Rooted in Faith. Growing in Knowledge. Serving in Love.

NEXT OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR School Choice
AUGUST 1-20

A Christ-centered education. A strong foundation for life. *Enroll. Grow. Thrive.*

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FAITH FORMATION CARING COMMUNITY

GET MORE INFORMATION AT
<https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>

Your Choice. Their Future.



Thank You!
for coming to our
BLOCK PARTY
in the Park!

We had a great time and we're so glad you were here!

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Join us on Sundays at
8:00 am, 10:30 am or 6:00 pm
for worship

*Growing in Faith.
Sharing God's Love.*

Looking for a church home?

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill, you'll find more than a church—you'll find a family. We are a community of people who strive to share Christ's love, encourage one another, and walk together in faith through every season of life.

Whether you're raising a family, looking for a place to worship, or simply searching for a welcoming community, we would be honored to walk alongside you.

Our Christ-centered ministry includes:

- Trinity Lutheran School, offering all-day 4K and education through 8th grade, where children grow academically, spiritually, and personally in a caring Christian environment.
- Our Early Learning Center, providing a strong, faith-filled foundation for young children, along with before- and after-school care to support busy families.
- Meaningful worship opportunities with traditional services at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and a contemporary service at 10:30 AM, offering a place for everyone to connect with God.
- Active youth ministries for students in grades 6–8 and senior high, featuring weekly gatherings, service opportunities, fun events, and lasting friendships.
- A heart for our community through our Open Hearts Food Pantry (open Wednesdays and Fridays), our monthly free community meal, and many special events and outreach opportunities throughout the year.
- Opportunities to grow in faith through Bible studies, men's and women's groups, and fellowship for every stage of life.

At Trinity, you'll discover a congregation that genuinely cares, celebrates together, prays together, and supports one another. No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here. Come and join us as we "Carry Christ to our congregation and our community." We would love to welcome you to Trinity Lutheran Church. We hope you'll come worship with us and experience the love of Christ and the warmth of our church family.

