



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

August 23, 2026 - 10:30 AM

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Hey, God! What about LUTHERAN WORSHIP?”

Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Preacher today.

AS WE GATHER: The word *doxology* encompasses words of praise that are addressed to the triune God. It comes from the Greek word *doxa*, which is used in the New Testament to express the splendor of God and also serves to describe the outpouring of honor and praise to God from His faithful people. When we sing or say “Glory be to God on high,” we are joining the praises spoken by the angels of God in eternity: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 7:12). Such an honor it is for us to join in that praise!

PRE-SERVICE: **“Build My Life”** (Praise Team) **#33 Key of D**
 “All My Fountains” (Praise Team) **#2 Key of A**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG **“Song In My Soul” #41 Key of D**

Vs.1 *There's a song in my soul
And I feel it stirring in me
This I know for sure
That Your love is like a flood
And Your mercy never ending
I give my song to You*

Vs.2 *There's a joy in my soul
And it rises like the morning
This I know for sure
That Your grace is enough
And Your promise never breaking
I give my song to You*

Chorus *All of Your goodness is like a well
running over
Oh my soul it sings for You
For all of Your goodness I will love
You forever
All my songs I sing for You
Yes all my songs I sing for You*

Vs.3 *There's a hope in my heart
Burning bright in the darkness
This I know for sure
That I will look upon Your face
Forever dwell in Your presence
And always sing to You*

(Chorus)

Bridge *Let my life be to You a symphony
Singing out holy holy
All my days every single breath I breathe
Singing out holy (You are) holy
(Sing Twice)*

(Chorus)

Yeah all my songs I sing for You

CCLI Song # 7113941, Brad Beal | Jonathan Smith | Phil Wickham | Travis Ryan, © 2018 Integrity's Alleluia! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook])), The Worship Society (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook])), Hickory Hill Doc (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), 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]), Remaining portion is unaffiliated, 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

Psalm 29:1-2; 96:3-4a

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.**

Pastor: May the LORD give strength to His people!

People: **May the LORD bless His people with peace!**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Gracious God, with contrition and repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins 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 God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

***"Sing Wherever I Go"* #59 Key of A**

Chorus *All my life*

All I know

God's been good

Good to my soul

Mountain high

Valley low

I'm gonna sing wherever I go

(Repeat)

Vs. 2 *He's my heartsong*

In my sorrow

He's my hope and my strength for tomorrow

When the storms rise

All around me

I will call on the name of the Lord

Chorus (Sing 2X)

Vs.1 *God is for me*

He's not against me

I will hold to the plans He has for me

When I'm broken

He will fix me

I will call on the name of the Lord

(Chorus (Sing 1X))

Bridge *I got joy joy joy*

Deep in my soul

(Instrumental)

I will sing sing sing

Wherever I go

(Chorus (Sing 2X))

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.

FIRST READING Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. ³ On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, ⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. ⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar. ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING Romans 11:33-12:8

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And

Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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*

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*

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

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)

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 **"Hey, God! What about LUTHERAN WORSHIP?"**

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Praise Team) **"Battle Belongs" #56 Key of D**

*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 at Trinity, please add your email and phone number in the attendance book.*

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 SONG

“Come to the Table” #13 Key of G

Vs.1 *We all start on the outside
The outside looking in
This is where grace begins
We were hungry we were thirsty
With nothing left to give
Oh the shape that we were in*

Pre-Chorus *Just when all hope seemed lost
Love opened the door for us*

Chorus *He said come to the table
Come join the sinners who have
been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table*

Vs.2 *Come meet this motley crew of misfits
These liars and these thieves
There's no one unwelcome here
So that sin and shame that you've
brought with you
You can leave it at the door
And let mercy draw you near*

(Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus (Sing Twice))

*Come to the table
Come to the table
Come to the table*

CCLI Song # 7036352, Ben Glover | Ben McDonald | Dave Frey, © 9t One Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Dayspring Music, LLC (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.), Pencil Prophet Publishing (Admin. by Word Entertainment, LLC), Run Run Milo (Admin. by Word Entertainment, LLC), CCLI License # 188086

“The Cross Was Meant For Me” (Instrumental) #43 Key of D

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“Lead On Good Shepherd” #81 Key of F

Vs1 *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*

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*

Vs.2 *Seen some mighty deep canyons
That You brought me through
Seen some mighty big mountains
That just up and moved
Glory glory hallelujah
Yeah that's my song
Walking with my Father
Into the great unknown*

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)

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

Frankie Orella, Patrick Mayberry, Paul Duncan, CCLI Song #7209206, © 2023 Centricity Music Publishing; Centricity Songs; Shi-Lily Songs, For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com, CCLI License #188086

Today's Radio Broadcast today is sponsored by Marlene & Joe Thomaschefskey for the blessings they have received.

The Flowers on the altar are sponsored by Mike and Beth Houle in celebration of their 17th Wedding Anniversary.

Share Your Garden Harvest with Trinity Hot Lunch!

Has God blessed your garden with an abundant harvest this year? Beginning **September 1**, Trinity Lutheran School is excited to accept donations of **fresh, unprocessed garden produce** to be used in our hot lunch program. Donations may include items such as:

- Cucumbers
- Cherry tomatoes
- Peppers
- Carrots
- Apples
- Sweet corn
- Zucchini
- Green beans
- Lettuce
- Other garden-fresh produce

Your generous donations will help provide healthy, nutritious meals for our students while allowing them to enjoy the fruits and vegetables grown right here in our community. If your garden is overflowing, please consider sharing your bounty with the children at Trinity. Your gift is a wonderful way to support our hot lunch program and demonstrate God's love through service to others. **Produce donations may be dropped off at the school beginning September 1.** If you have questions about acceptable produce or donation procedures, please contact the school office at 715-536-7501 or email Principal Johnson at scott.johnson@tismerrill.com. Thank you for helping us nourish both the bodies and hearts of our Trinity students!

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, and how many people need transportation to Trinity Church.

Sunday Morning Bible Class resumes on September 13th. Join us at 9:15am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall here at Trinity. Let's explore the church's foundation together as we go through the Augsburg Confession. Call the church office to register so we are sure to have enough materials.

Trinity Early Learning Center (ELC) Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Keep the date of Friday, September 25th open to join us. More information will be available soon.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Diane Kreager's bible study on The book of Ruth "More than a Love Story" will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 1:00-2:00. No need to sign up.... Just show up.

Bible Legacy Night – September 10 at 6:00 PM at Trinity Church

This invitation is for all Trinity third graders and their families, including students enrolled at Trinity School and public-school students who are Trinity members. This special evening celebrates an important milestone in each child's faith journey as our third graders receive their own Bible from Trinity. Families are encouraged to attend as we gather to give thanks for God's Word and pray that these Bibles will guide, encourage and strengthen our students for years to come.

Join us for Trinity's next **COMMUNITY MEAL**- Wednesday, September 16th from 4:30-6:30.



Trinity School Begins
Tuesday, September 1st

We invite parents, and
grandparents to join us for
chapel at church at 8:30 AM.

Let's begin this new school
year together with prayer,
praise, and thanksgiving,
asking God to bless our
students, teachers, and
families throughout the
year.