



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

September 13, 2026 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM (DS 3)

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson with Pastor Jonathan Chapa as the Liturgist and Mark Knorr as the Lector. Eileen Hass is our organist.

AS WE GATHER: We know that it is our calling in Christ to forgive one another, but that does not eliminate the question of how much or how often we should forgive others. It becomes a particularly vexing question when we are asked to forgive the same sin over and over again. The great temptation is for us to make forgiveness conditional upon the person no longer offending us with their words or actions, but God applies no such condition upon us. Our temptation is to count how often we forgive but to forget how often we are forgiven. Our weakness counts the sins of others, but could it be that God counts only the times we refused to forgive from the heart? We know the riches of the Lord's limitless grace to forgive us without counting the cost. Today, we pray that we may joyfully receive this precious gift of forgiveness and joyfully forgive others in Christ's name, counting not the cost to forgive but the cost to refuse forgiveness.

OPENING HYMN

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

LSB 606

1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89 Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

LSB 186

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

LSB 190



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C **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.

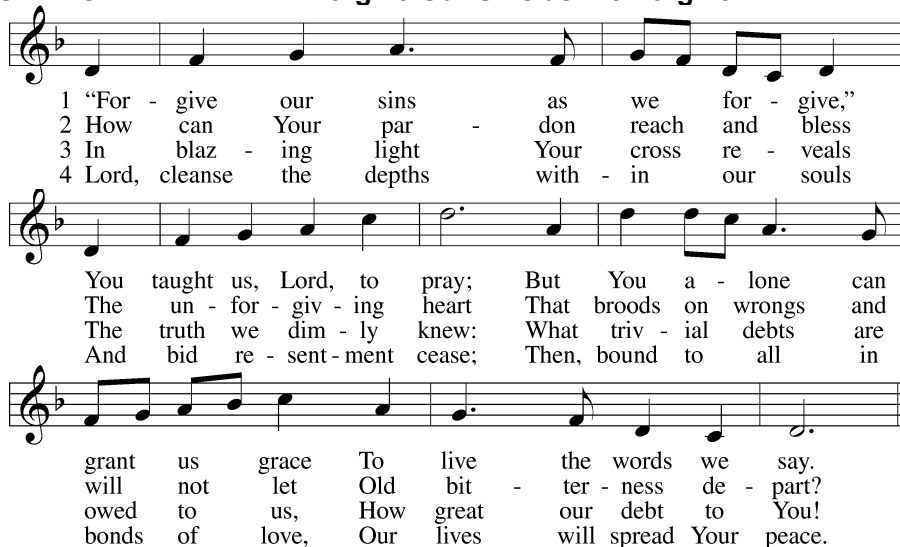
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge

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.

SERMON HYMN

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

LSB 843



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”
 2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
 3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls

You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
 The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, How great our debt to You!
 bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820, Harrisonburg Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698 Tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERTORY

LSB 192



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING

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 list the names of all in attendance in your family.) If you are a visitor interested in membership please include your email and phone number to the attendance pad.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

P The Lord be with you

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

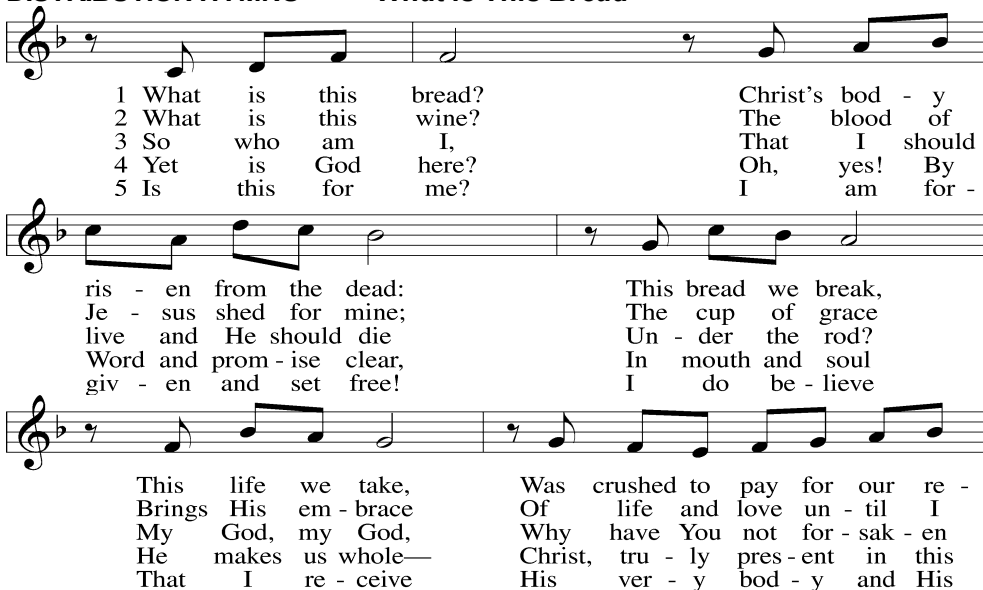
AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "What is This Bread"

LSB 629



1 What is this bread?	Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine?	The blood of
3 So who am I,	That I should
4 Yet is God here?	Oh, yes! By
5 Is this for me?	I am for -

ris - en from the dead;	This bread we break,
Je - sus shed for mine;	The cup of grace
live and He should die	Un - der the rod?
Word and prom - ise clear,	In mouth and soul
giv - en and set free!	I do be - lieve

This life we take,	Was crushed to pay for our re -
Brings His em - brace	Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God,	Why have You not for - sak - en
He makes us whole—	Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
That I re - ceive	His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

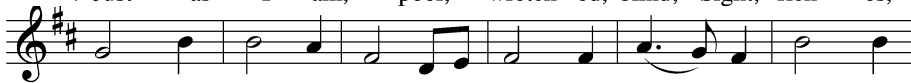
Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

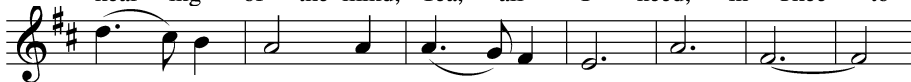
LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

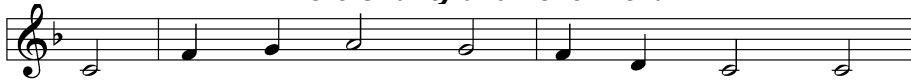
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

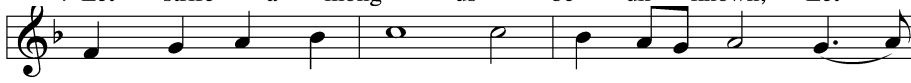
Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LSB 845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

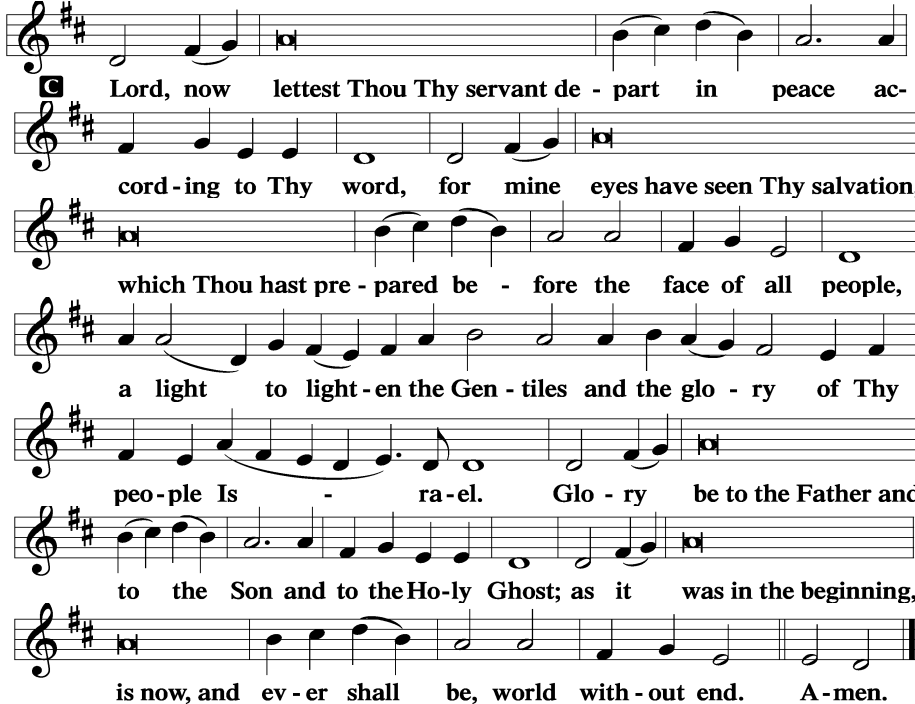
5. Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.

6. For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt. Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842 Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698 Tune: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
 C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202

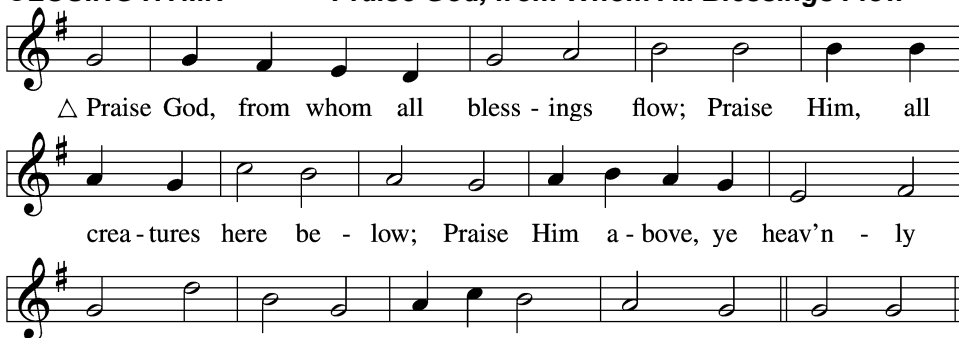
P Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

LSB 805



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Roger & Rebecca Hinner and family in celebration of the birthday of Leila Marnholtz and in celebration of all grandparents on Grandparent Day.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Chris and Heather Renzelmann and family, in loving memory of Roger & Lenore English, Gerald & Carol Duwe, Pat Renzelmann, and Vera & Renald Henriksen.

Can you imagine teaching your young child about Jesus Christ – without having any kind of Sunday school materials, or even a basic Bible storybook? This situation is a reality from many Lutheran churches around the world, but the Lutheran heritage foundation is helping to change that. Next Sunday, Rev. Mark Moss, LHF Mission engagement associate, will preach at our services. Please plan to join us during Bible study class as well. When Rev. Moss shows the exciting mission work LHF is doing worldwide.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Join us on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 for Diane Kreager's bible study on the book of Ruth, "More than a Love Story"

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

New Member Class What are the basics of the Bible? What is a creed? How do Law and Gospel apply to my life today? What do we believe as LCMS Lutherans? If you are asking any of these, **we invite you to come to our new member class starting on September 27th @ 9:15 in the youth room.** We will have a 7-session course that will go over what we teach about Law and Gospel, the Creeds, the Means of Grace, and what our lives look like as Christians here and now. We invite anyone who is seeking to learn more about what we believe and wanting to become a new member to join us! Any questions? Talk to Pastor Jon or Dan Schneider! **When:** September 27th from 9:15am-10:15am **Where:** The youth room downstairs **How Long:** 7 Sessions

The Trinity Dorcas Society will meet on Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We welcome any Trinity ladies who would like to learn about our group to join us.

The Fall Congregational Meeting is October 25 after the 10:30 service. At that meeting we will be electing three members to serve the next three years on the Church Council. If anyone's interested or if anyone has recommendations, please speak to Pastor G.

OPEN HEARTS FOOD SHELF — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our Open Hearts Food Shelf is open every Wednesday and Friday from 2:00–4:00 PM, providing food to individuals and families in our community. We are looking for a few volunteers who can help pick up food on Thursday or Friday mornings and bring it to Trinity. The food will already be packaged and ready to go—no shopping required! Some muscle is helpful, as there will be boxes and food packages to load and unload. If you can help on a regular or occasional basis, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor G. Your helping hands can be an Open Heart to someone in need!

Trinity Kids (Sunday School) will begin on September 20th from 9:15-10:15 at Trinity School. Children will enjoy learning about Jesus and his love for them.

Sunday Morning Bible Class Join us at 9:15am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall here at Trinity! This year, we'll be going through the Augsburg Confession. This historic document, written in 1530, is the foundation statement for what we Lutherans believe, teach, and confess--and why! Registration is necessary to make sure we have enough materials for you. Please contact the church to sign up.

LWML Fall Rally will be held on September 26 at St. Paul's Pine River from 9:00-12:00. Registration begins at 8:15. Cost is \$5.00. Bring an item for their Food Pantry and stamps.

GRIEF SHARE- September 14th through December 7th (Mondays) from 6:00-8:00 PM at Trinity Church. Trinity will once again be offering Grief Support to our church and community. This support group will offer help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. At a GriefShare meeting, you will find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us and bring a friend. Contact us today so we have enough materials. 715-536-5482.

North Wisconsin District Adult Gathering - Make plans now to attend the NWD Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 13 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Registration & morning refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. with the program from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. A catered lunch will be served at noon. Devotions will be led by District President, Rev. Timothy Shoup. Keynote speaker,

Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, who serves as managing director – global mission operations of the LCMS Office of International Mission. The \$35 registration fee includes morning refreshments, program, and a catered lunch. Registration deadline is September 25. Registration forms are available in the office and on the NWD homepage at nwdlcms.org under 'Events and Info'.

Fundraiser for Kaye Annis - Join us on Thursday, September 17, from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake Street, Merrill for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. All proceeds go to Kaye for medical related expenses. Buy your tickets at the door for \$13 for all the Spaghetti you can eat. Join us for an evening of food, fun and community spirit to assist Kaye Annis.