



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

October 4, 2026 - 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM DS 1

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - **"CONNECT"**

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson. Pastor Jon Chapa will be our Liturgist and Mark Knorr our Lector. Abe Akey is our organist today.

AS WE GATHER We begin our three-week journey down the *Road to Discipleship* by considering where discipleship begins: **connection to Christ and His people**. The Law reminds us how easily we can become disconnected—from God, from His Word, and from one another. Yet Jesus calls us to abide in Him, the True Vine. The Good News we hear this morning assures us that through Christ, we are no longer strangers, but members of God's household, called to live connected to Him and to one another.

OPENING HYMN

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

A In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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

KYRIE

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria in Excelsis”

LSB 154



The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words in all caps for emphasis. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a series of eighth notes: B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F#8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F#9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F#10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F#11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F#12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F#13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F#14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F#15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F#16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F#17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F#18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F#19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F#20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F#21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F#22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F#23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F#24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F#25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F#26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F#27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F#28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F#29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F#30, G30, A30, 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SALUTATION

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ² Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth chapter.

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

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

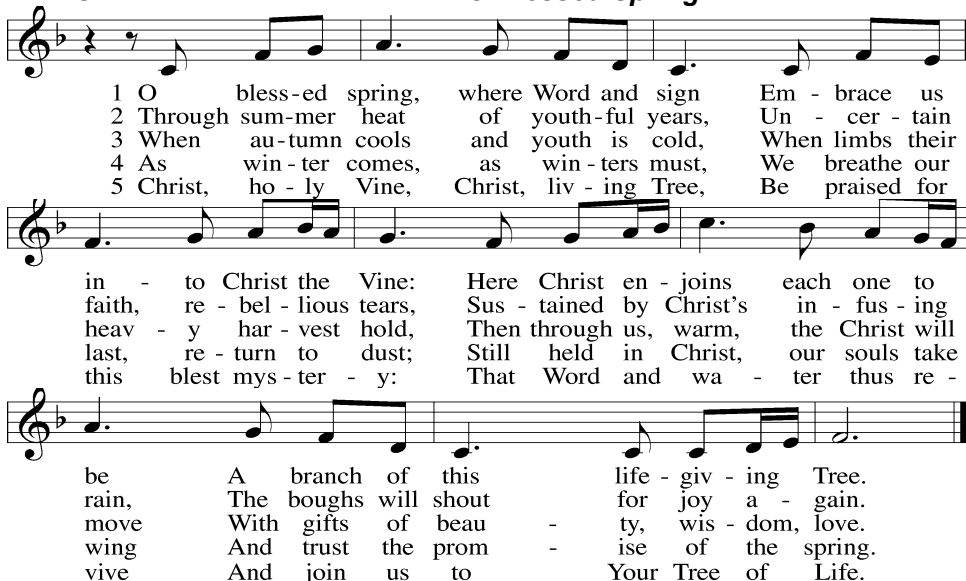
A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Blessed Spring"

LSB 595



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for
in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -
be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953–2021 Tune: English Text: © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698 Tune: Public domain

SERMON “Connect”

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

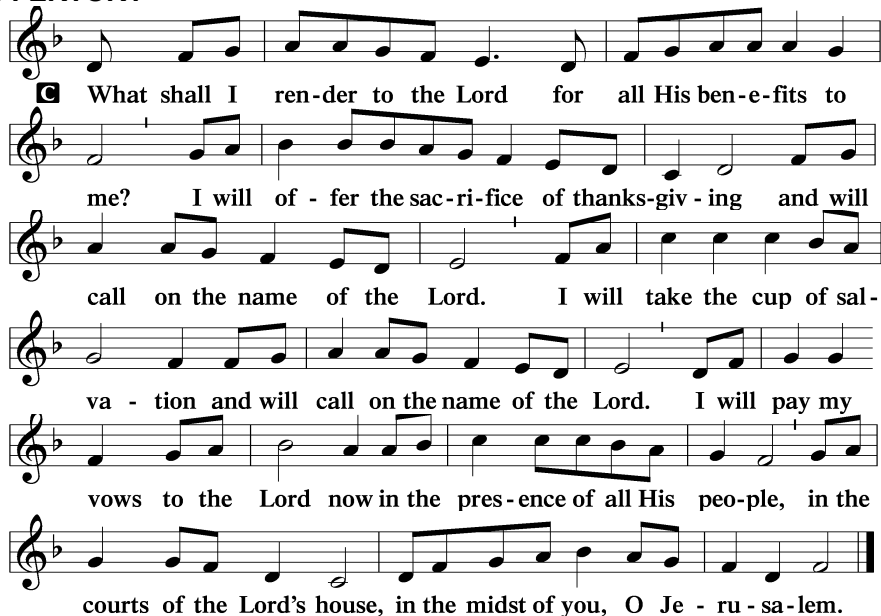
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God 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.

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 on the attendance pad.

OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB 924

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's radio broadcast and the flowers on the altar are both sponsored in celebration of the 58th Wedding Anniversary (Oct. 12) of Gerald & Eileen Voigt.

Join the Choir- Use your talents for the Lord!!! The Trinity Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Choir room. If you enjoy singing... join us.

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.

The Fall Congregational Meeting is October 25 (12:45 PM) after the Ministry Fair.

Trinity Lutheran Church's fall congregational meeting will follow the Ministry Fair. We will elect three members to serve three-year terms on the Church Council. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor G.

Lincoln County Health Department will be offering seniors (65+) a flu shot clinic

They will also be offering "walk in" flu shots (including high dose flu shots) every Wednesday from 8:30-4pm from mid Sep-Nov. No appointment needed.

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. 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!



SOCKTOBER

OCTOBER 1st - OCTOBER 31st

Trinity Dorcas will be collecting new and gently used socks for people in need during the month of October. There will be a clothes hamper in the narthex for any size sock donations.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." – Hebrews 13:16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, October 18th, 2026. The meal will feature 9 varieties of chili. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.



Ministry Fair — October 25, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Are you involved in a ministry at Trinity? We invite your ministry to participate in our upcoming Ministry Fair. To reserve a space or learn more, please contact the church office and leave your information. Not yet involved in a ministry at Trinity? This is the perfect chance to stop in and check out the many ministries happening at Trinity and see which one is the right fit for you.

Trunk or Treat — October 31, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 PM (Noon)

Bring your children, costumes, and Fall excitement for a fun-filled morning of treats, activities, and community. We look forward to welcoming children and families from throughout our community for this special day. Want to help? We are looking for volunteers to host a trunk, assist with activities, and distribute snacks. . **We also welcome and would appreciate donations of candy.** We look forward to welcoming many children from our community for this special day.



Donate diapers and wipes in the provided box in the Narthex to help the Community Baby Shower.

OCTOBER IS...



PASTOR
Appreciation
MONTH

'FAN THE FLAME' retreat

for Women of all Ages

Sat, Nov 14th: 9-1 @ Trinity Lutheran, Merrill



Stoke your faith
fire! Deep dive into
2 Timothy 1:6-7 with
musical speaker *Wendy Sue*

www.wendysue.com

Register: Trinity office: **715-536-5482**

Women are invited to gather for worship, fellowship, lunch, and connection with one another. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Volunteers are also needed to help plan this meaningful event. Please call the church 715-536-5482.

Please join us for our **FREE**

Lincoln County



Community Baby Shower

**For pregnant and parenting families
with children 0 to 18 months**

Bring a friend or family! Kids welcomed..
No registration needed..

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

**New
Location!**

3 PM to 6 PM

**Merrill Enrichment Center
(303 N Sales St, Merrill)**

**Each family will receive a care package
(includes diapers, wipes and more).
Available while supplies last.**

- Connect with community resources
- Learn about child safety and milestones
- And MUCH MORE!!

 **LINCOLN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**