TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com
Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 15, 2026 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM (DS 3)
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson with Pastor Jonathan Chapa as our Liturgist and Ken Van De Zande as the Lector. Wendysue Fluegge will lead us in our music today.

AS WE GATHER: As the Church Year draws to a close, God's Word reminds us that Christ will come again, though we do not know the day or hour. We are called to remain watchful, faithful, and confident in His promises, knowing that our Savior is "a mighty one who will save" (Zephaniah 3:17). Today, we are especially blessed to welcome **Christian recording artist Wendysue Fluegge**, who will lead us in songs and hymns of praise throughout our worship. Through her gift of music, we are reminded of the joy, hope, and assurance we have in Jesus Christ. May God bless our worship as we lift our voices and hearts to the Lord, eagerly awaiting His glorious return!

OPENING HYMN ***"Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee"*** (Arrangement by Wendysue Fluegge***)*** LSB 803

Vs.1 *Joyful joyful we adore You God of glory Lord of love.*
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness fill us with the light of day.

Vs 2 *All Your works with joy surround You Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays.*
Stars and angels sing around You Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain Flowery meadow skies above.
Singing bird and flowing fountain show the wonders of Your love.

Chorus: ***Voices raised We bring before You our joyful praise as we adore You.***

Vs.3 *You are giving and forgiving ever blessing ever blessed.*
Wellspring of the joy of living Ocean where my soul finds rest.
Father Son and Holy Spirit You who rescue and restore.
Joyful we Your Heaven inherit there we'll praise You ever more.

Chorus: ***Voices raised We bring before You our joyful praise as we adore You.***

Father Son and Holy Spirit You who rescue and restore.
Joyful we Your Heaven inherit there we'll praise You ever more.

Chorus: ***Voices raised We bring before You our joyful praise as we adore You.***

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

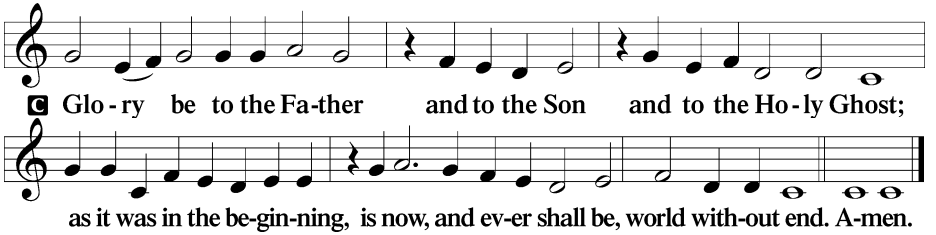
P O almighty God, merciful Father,

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.**

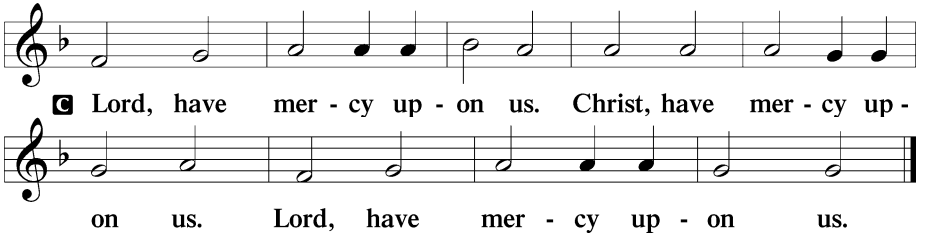
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

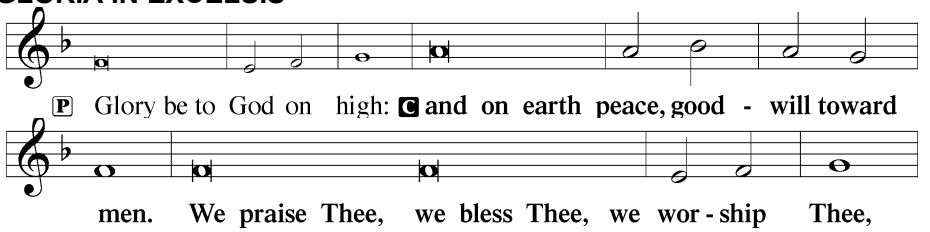
GLORIA PATRI



KYRIE LSB 186



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS LSB 187





SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**.

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Zephaniah 1:7-16**

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice "I will punish the officials
and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and
fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their
hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their
houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and
hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day
of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle
cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

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

(8:00) **SPECIAL MUSIC** by the Trinity School students grades 2-5

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written
to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But
you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all
children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us
not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at
night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

ALLELUIA LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his
property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with
them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents
more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's
money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with
them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more,
saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I
will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents
came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents
more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful
over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had
received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping
where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I
went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered
him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather
where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and
at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from
him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given,
and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken
away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.**'**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

SONG OF THE DAY ***"While We Wait"*** (words & music by Wendysue Fluegge- copyright 2023)

(Wsue) *Father God in Heaven draw us near as Your children meet together here.*
Listen to the words we sing and this prayer of need we bring.
Mighty Counselor break our noisy silence Speak to us.
Precious Prince of Peace heal our hearts of violence Come to us - come to us.

C ***While we wait we'll keep watch with great anticipation.***
Come to dwell Immanuel; Desire of every nation full of Grace and truth Lord we long for You.

(Wsue) *Living Bread of Life satisfy our hunger Fill our souls.*
Promised Jesus Christ crush the sin we're under Make us whole – make us whole.

C ***While we wait we'll keep watch with great anticipation.***
Come to dwell Immanuel; Desire of every nation full of Grace and truth Lord we long for You.

(Wsue) *Freedom for the captives – You're making all things new.*
You're returning - Oh King of Kings – so faithful and true.

C ***While we wait we'll keep watch with great anticipation.***
Come to dwell Immanuel; Desire of every nation
While we wait we'll keep watch with great anticipation.
Come to dwell Immanuel; Desire of every nation full of Grace and truth Lord we long for You.

SERMON "Fan the Flame--While We Wait!"

OFFERTORY LSB 192



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 & 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

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 "Christ Be My Leader" LSB 861

C ***Christ be my leader by night as by day Safe thru the darkness for He is the way.***
Gladly I follow my future His care Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth Drifting or doubting for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him though shifting as sand Doubt cannot daunt me in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife Death cannot hold me for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain can touch my salvation with Jesus I reign.

Acknowledgments- Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book **Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.**

Today's radio broadcast.is sponsored by Gary & Pam Gojmerac in honor of Harry & Lila Erdman.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in celebration of the 48th Wedding Anniversary of Jerry & Cindy Buffinton.

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) Bring your children, grandchildren and your best friend's children. Join us at 9:15-10:15 at Trinity School. Children learn about Jesus and his love.

CHURCH OFFICE HELP NEEDED!

Trinity Church is looking for someone who would be willing to **fill in at the church office when staff is on vacation or takes time off.** If you enjoy helping others and would like to serve Trinity in this way, we would love to hear from you! **Please contact Robin if you are interested or would like more information. 715-536-5482.**

Help Provide Snacks for Our Kindergarteners! Our Trinity kindergarteners could use some help in providing an **afternoon snack each school day at 2:00 p.m.** We are grateful for the support of a **Thrivent Action Team grant and our Trinity congregation to** help make this possible! Would you like to help provide healthy snacks for our youngest learners? Donations of items such as **apples, oranges, grapes, cheese sticks, meat sticks, fruit cups, Goldfish crackers, Cheez-Its, graham crackers, or popcorn** would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate, please contact **Mrs. Lisa** before bringing snacks in so we can coordinate donations and avoid receiving too much at one time.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? WE'RE HERE TO HELP! 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 pickup address and how many people will need transportation to Trinity Church.**

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT TRINITY

The Decorating Committee would appreciate some extra help in turning our church into a beautiful space fit for our King. Please consider helping on the following days.

Sunday, Nov. 22nd - 1:00 pm meet in the church basement - We will decorate the live wreaths, check lights, & fluff roping.

Friday, November 27th - 9:00 am All decorations go up. We will add roping on railings outside, hang the wreaths up outside, put up the inside church decorations, decorate the balcony, the windows and over the top of the sliding door in the narthex.

Monday, Nov. 30th - 9:00 am Trees come! We need strong men to bring the tree stands in, carry in large trees, cut trunks, set up trees, bring in manger stable, climb ladders to put lights on the trees and decorate the tops of the trees. We need ladies to help us decorate the two altar trees and the two large trees.

Your help in decorating our church will bring so much joy to those attending services here at Trinity over Advent and Christmas. Please join us in turning our church into the beautiful church we come to enjoy every year here at Trinity. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Wendysue Fluegge for sharing her talents and her love of Jesus with us today.