TRINITY MERRILL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452
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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 15, 2026 - 10:30 AM
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Scott Gustafson will be sharing the message with us today. Pastor Jonathan Chapa is our Liturgist. 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!

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG ***"Bless the Lord / 10,000 Reasons"*** arranged by Wendysue Fluegge

Chorus: ***Bless the Lord, O my soul O my soul Worship His holy name***
Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

Vs. 1 *The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning It's time to sing Your song again*
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me Let me be singing when the evening comes
(Chorus)

Vs. 2 *You're rich in love and You're slow to anger Your name is great and Your heart is kind*
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing 10,000 reasons for my heart to find
(Chorus)

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION **Psalm 143:1**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD;.
People: give ear to my pleas for mercy!

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. 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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

"Bless the Lord / 10,000 Reasons" arranged by Wendysue Fluegge

Vs. 3 And on that day when my strength is failing The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending 10,000 years and then forever more

Chorus: *Bless the Lord, O my soul O my soul Worship His holy name*
Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

SONG ***"House of the Lord"*** words/music by Phil Wickham

Chorus ***There's joy in the house of the Lord***
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

Vs.1 *We worship the God who was*
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory

(Chorus)

Vs.2 *We sing to the God who heals*
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

(Chorus)

Bridge *We were the beggars*
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

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APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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

FIRST 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING 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.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30

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.**’**

SONG OF THE DAY ***“While We Wait”*** words & muic by Wendysue Fluegge -copyright 2023

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.

Chorus ***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

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.

(Chorus)

Freedom for the captives You’re making all things new
You’re returning - Oh King of Kings – so faithful and true

(Chorus- 2X)

MESSAGE “Fan the Flame--While We Wait!”

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 include your last names and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family.) If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity, please include your phone number and email when signing the attendance book or contact the church office.***

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE &THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG ***"Build My Life"*** words & music by Pat Barrett

Vs.1 *Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing*
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, oh, we live for You

Vs.2 *Jesus the name above ev'ry other name*
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Chorus ***Holy there is no one like You***
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

(Sing verse 2 and Chorus again)

Bridge *I will build my life upon Your love*
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

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

The flowers on the altar today are sponsored in celebration of the 48th Wedding Anniversary of Jerry & Cindy Buffinton

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.*



Thank you for helping care for and nourish our Trinity kindergarteners!

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!

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**

TRINITY KIDS (Sunday School) Children will enjoy learning about Jesus and His love for them at Sunday School. Sundays from 9:15-10:15 at Trinity School. Bring your children, grandchildren, your friend's children.

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.**

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.