



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

February 15, 2026 - 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM - Matins
The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jon Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist and Ken Van De Zande is our Lector. Polly Schneider is playing the organ.

OPENING HYMN

"Tis Good, Lord, to be Here"

LSB 414



1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy
2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy
3 Ful - fill - er of the past And
4 Be - fore we taste of death, We
5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet



glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,
beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -
hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y
see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the
we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us



like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.
glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.
vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.
leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt. Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

VERSICLES

P O Lord, open my lips,
C **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

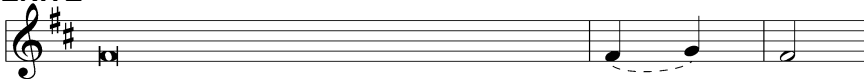
PSALMODY

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

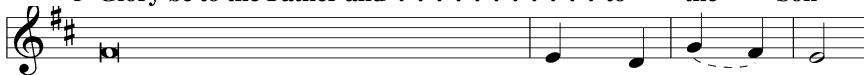
VENITE

LSB 220



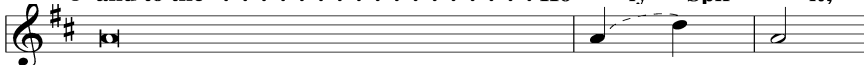
- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

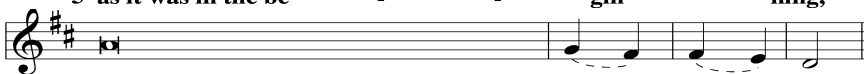


- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



- 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PSALMODY

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

FIRST READING (The Servant of the Lord)

Exodus 24:8-18

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God and ate and drank. ¹²The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has

a dispute, let him go to them.” ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

P The Holy Gospel reading according to St. Matthew the seventeenth chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

A O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**



1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;
 2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,
 3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-ception With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo-ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!
 Not by build - ing on the moun-tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,
 And re - cast our life's in - ten - tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe - ter, James, and John fall si - lent, Turn - ing from the sum-mit's rise
 But by fol - low - ing the Sav - ior Through the val - ley to the cross
 Till we seek no oth - er glo - ry Than what lies past Cal - v'ry's hill



Down-ward toward the shad-owed val-ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.
 And by test - ing faith's re - sil-ience Through be - tray - al, pain, and loss.
 And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

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SERMON

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)

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

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.**

COLLECT

- A O Lord, Hear my prayer
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- A O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

- A O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 228

- A Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 228

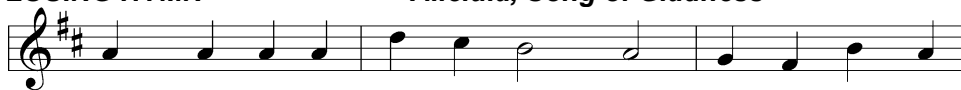
- P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Bury the Alleluias"

CLOSING HYMN

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"

LSB 417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while
 4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
 lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,
 here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions
 Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of
 All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -
 Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn
 With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.
 ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin, c. 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: John Goss, 1800–80Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Sandy Schneider for her dedication to the Lord, her church, and her family by Bob, the Hartson, the Page and the Schneider families.

The Flowers on the altar are sponsored in celebration of the 64th Wedding Anniversary of Joe and Marlene Thomaschefskey.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE! Please pick up your envelopes from downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to find yours, please contact the church office. Envelopes were made for members Grade 3 to adult, unless you have automatic giving set up..

Parents: There are a lot of children's envelopes still down there.

GriefShare begins Feb. 23, 2026, and meets weekly both online (Zoom) and in person for 13 weeks. Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of your friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome! (Church membership is not required.) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, **Join us and learn more at www.Griefshare.org**. Grief is difficult. Share your burdens and grow through your unique healing this spring online and in person through GriefShare at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill - Questions call Manda Norman (715) 351-1399.

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND WE NEED YOUR....

- Updated Address
- E-mail Address
- Cell phone number

Be sure to update your contact information if you have moved, changed your phone number, got married, had a child, go to college, serve in the military, your child has moved out and has a new address, etc. You're important to us and we want to keep in touch. Please be sure the church office has all your current and correct information. Call the church office at 715-536-5482.

Memory Heart Tree Show your love for departed loved ones during the month of February by writing their name on a heart and placing it on the Memory Tree in the narthex. You may also help spread the Word of God by donating new or used Bibles or children's Bible story books and placing them under the Memory Tree. They will be given to the Homeless Shelter and the Little Libraries in Merrill. Any monetary donations will be used for Bibles as well. Thank you - Trinity Dorcas

Mark Your Calendars- BOW THE KNEE, a dramatic musical for Easter will be presented here at Trinity Merrill on Saturday, March 21st at 7 pm and Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30pm. Plan to come see and hear what it must have been like to be in Jerusalem with Jesus during his life, death, and resurrection. Everyone is welcome!

Please remember to stop at the **SECRET PRAYER SUPPORT** table today to draw the name of the person you will be praying for throughout Lent. Pray daily or every few days for your person, but keep that person's name a SECRET until you mail a signed card to him/her at Easter time. God bless you as you pray!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

FEBRUARY 18TH

10:30 AM
4:30 PM
6:30 PM

TRADITIONAL
CONTEMPORARY
TRADITIONAL

11:00 AM SOUP LUNCH
5:00 PM DINNER
Chicken Gnocchi Soup & Tortellini Soup
served by Trinity Staff

"From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

School Care Program Seeking Donations





BOARD GAMES
CARD GAMES
READING BOOKS (AGES KINDER - 4TH)
CRAYONS
MARKERS (NO PAINT!)

Donations can be brought to the School or Church labeled for the School Care Program!

Questions? Contact Erin McKeen erin.mckeen@tlsmerrill.com

The Trinity Dorcas Society will be holding a bake sale in the church basement on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. The bake sale will be held before and after each church service held on Ash Wednesday. Stop down to purchase freshly baked goodies from our Dorcas members.

Lenten Meals at Trinity - During the season of Lent, Trinity will once again gather around the table for fellowship and nourishment as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue for five Wednesdays throughout Lent. Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM, following our 10:30 AM worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a simple meal and meaningful conversation with fellow members. If you are willing to help by bringing bars or helping with clean-up, please contact Sandra at 715-536-6646 or Fern at 715-539-0633. It would be greatly appreciated.

Lenten Dinners will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue each Wednesday during Lent. Dinner will be served from 5:00 PM until just before the 6:30 PM worship service, providing a convenient and welcoming time to gather before evening worship.

The Weekly Dinner Menu is as follows:

Feb. 18- Ash Wednesday – Sponsored by the Trinity Staff – Cheesy Tortellini Soup and Chicken Gnocchi Soup served with Bread, cheese, desserts, milk, coffee and water.

Feb. 25- Sponsored by the Trinity Youth – Taco's

March 4- Sponsored by the Lutheran Junior Honor Assoc.(LJHA) – Soup TBD

March 11- Sponsored by Trinity PTO – Hugo's Lasagna

March 18- TBD

March 25- TBD

We are however still looking for individuals or groups to help us prepare and serve the suppers. Please contact the office if you are able to help bring these meals together and to bring fellowship to our Lenten services.

We look forward to sharing these meals and this sacred season together. All are welcome!



10TH ANNUAL PTO DINNER AND AUCTION

April 25th
SAVE THE DATE
MERRILL EXPO CENTER

MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

Questions? Interested in donating?
Contact trinitypto@tismerrill.com



Love the Littles Diaper Drive

Love the Littles Diaper Closet located at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is holding its third annual donation drive in order to continue to provide this much needed service in our community. Started three years ago, the diaper closet continues to see an increase in the number of parents and adults that utilize this service. In order to keep the shelves stocked, they are asking community members to donate packages of diapers and wipes, or send monetary donations in order to buy diapers in bulk. Larger child sizes are especially needed. Donation boxes will be located at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Christ United Methodist Church, St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, The Chiropractic Wellness Center, Ascension Episcopal Church, Park City Credit Union, Polka-Dotted Pie, Incredible Bank, Westside Market, Riverside Athletic Club and Sawmill Brewing Company from February 6-23. Monetary donations can be mailed or dropped off at Our Saviour's at 300 Logan Street, across from PRMS. Thank you so much for your continued support of this important ministry to those in Merrill who need a little extra help.