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Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

February 15, 2026 - 10:30 AM  
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jonathan Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist. Polly Schneider is our pianist today.

**AS WE Gather:** Jesus looks brilliant! As language changes, sometimes the most basic meanings of words change and expand with the times. For generations, the English word *brilliant* meant simply something that shines or radiates light. The word is thought to be derived from the prized gemstone beryl, which is mentioned in both the Old Testament book of Daniel (10:6) and the book of Revelation (21:20). Jesus' garments became "white as light," Matthew writes (17:2), in a way that mirrors Psalm 104, where the psalmist writes of God: "You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment" (vv. 1–2). As He stands on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is shining, radiant, and brilliant. An expanded meaning of the word *brilliant* is "perfect, amazing, and wonderful." Jesus on the mountaintop is brilliant as He discusses how He will carry out God's plan of our salvation with two of the best coaches ever, Moses and Elijah. Jesus does not just look brilliant—He *is* brilliant!

## WELCOME & GREETING

### OPENING HYMN

*"Father Welcomes"*

LSB 605

**Refrain** *Father welcomes all His children  
To His fam'ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation,  
Life forever has been won.*

Vs.2. In the water, in the Word,  
In His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe  
Shall be born again. **(Refrain)**

Vs.1. *Little children, come to Me,  
For My kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give,  
Mercy for your sin. (Refrain)*

Vs.3. Let us daily die to sin;  
Let us daily rise with Him,  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Live in the peace of God. **(Refrain)**

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**BAPTISM** Today we welcome Rhen Patrick Becker to the waters of Holy Baptism. Rhen is the son of AJ & Malayna Becker. His sponsors are Tom & Stacy Davenport & Courtney Conachen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 50:1–2; 67:1, 3; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

**Pastor:** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People:** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**Pastor:** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us.

**People:** Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**Pastor:** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"

**People:** has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not always listened to Your Word and have not brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: We confess that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, begrudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and the needy as advocates of those not yet born and defenders of those in the final stages of life.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours, that we have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both those things that we know of and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**People: Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## MONTHLY VERSE (Romans 5:19)

***“For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”***

## THE FIRST READING

Exodus 24:8-18

<sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and 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. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God and ate and drank. <sup>12</sup>The 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." <sup>13</sup>So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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." <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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, [\[a\]](#) with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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.

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>And 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." <sup>5</sup>He 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." <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." <sup>8</sup>And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. <sup>9</sup>And 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."

## SONG OF THE DAY

***"There Is a Redeemer"***

LSB 971

Vs.1. *There is a Redeemer—  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One. (Refrain)*

Vs.2 *Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Hope for sinners slain. (Refrain)*

**Refrain** *Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
Till the work on earth is done.*

Vs.3 *When I stand in glory,  
I will see His face;  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place. (Refrain)*

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## SERMON

## 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](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://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 name and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)***

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “Bury the Alleluias”

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING SONG

### “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

LSB 417

Vs.1 *Alleluia, song of gladness,  
Voice of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem  
Ever raised by choirs on high;  
In the house of God abiding  
Thus they sing eternally.*

Vs.3 *Alleluia cannot always  
Be our song while here below;  
Alleluia, our transgressions  
Make us for a while forgo;  
For the solemn time is coming  
When our tears for sin must flow.*

Vs.2 *Alleluia, thou resoundest,  
True Jerusalem and free;  
Alleluia, joyful mother,  
All thy children sing with thee,  
But by Babylon's sad waters  
Mourning exiles now are we.*

Vs.4 *Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,  
Grant us, blessed Trinity,  
At the last to keep Thine Easter  
With Thy faithful saints on high;  
There to Thee forever singing  
Alleluia joyfully.*

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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 today** are sponsored in celebration of the 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Joe and Marlene Thomaschefskey.

**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

**Trinity's School Care Program is seeking donations -** Please donate board games, card games, reading books for ages K-4, Crayons and Markers to our School Care program.

**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 not required.) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, (if you haven't attended previously) and access to videos and other content useful in the journey from mourning to joy. Joy may seem out of reach when learning to live without our loved ones, yet the support of others and focusing on God's word makes room for the seemingly impossible process of healing. **Join us and learn more at [www.Griefshare.org](http://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.

**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 of our Trinity family. If you are willing to help by bringing a dessert 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 Wednesday, February 18, and continue for 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.

**Dinner Menus are 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

***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.***

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.

**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	TRADITIONAL
4:30 PM	CONTEMPORARY
6:30 PM	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."*



## 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](mailto:trinitypto@tismerrill.com)



## 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@tismerrill.com](mailto:erin.mckeen@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.