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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

February 22, 2026 - 10:30 AM
First Sunday in Lent

Pastor Scott Gustafson will be our Preacher today with Pastor Jonathan Chapa as our Liturgist.

AS WE GATHER: Only weeks ago, Jesus was called out by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Now Jesus reveals what He must do for us and our salvation. He must stand where Adam stood, tempted by the devil. This time, however, Jesus refuses to surrender His righteousness in the face of evil but preserves it so that He might give it to you and to me. With confidence in Christ's righteousness, which we wear by Baptism, and His forgiveness, which restores us when we fall, we know that the devil can harm us no more. We belong to Christ. In the power of Christ, we are made strong before the tempter's power, and in Him we are brought through death to life everlasting.

PRE-SERVICE: ***“Nothing But the Blood”***
 “Blessings”

Praise Team **#101 Key of A**
Praise Team **#47 Key of C**

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG ***“Battle Belongs”*** **#56 Key of D**

Vs.1 *When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You*

*Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb*
(Chorus)

Chorus *So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You*

Bridge *(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
(Repeat Twice)*

Vs.2 *And if You are for me
Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing*

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INVOCATION

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

CONFESION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You.
People: I did not cover up my iniquity.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
People: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.”

SONG

“How Rich A Treasure We Possess” #67 Key of D

Vs.1 How rich a treasure we possess
In Jesus Christ our Lord
His blood our ransom and defense
His glory our reward
The sum of all created things
Are worthless in compare
For our inheritance is Him
Whose praise angels declare

Vs.3 How vast and measureless the flood
Of mercy unrestrained
The penalty was paid in full
The spotless Lamb was slain
Salvation what a priceless gift
Received by grace through faith
We stand in robes of righteousness
We stand in Jesus' Name

Vs.2 How free and costly was the love
Displayed upon the cross
While we were dead in untold sin
The Sovereign purchased us
The will of God the Father
Demonstrated through the Son
The Spirit seals the greatest work
The work which Christ has done

Ending For Yours is the Kingdom
And the power and the glory
Yours is the Kingdom and the power and
the glory
Yours is the Kingdom and the power and
the glory
Amen yeah amen amen

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

SONG OF THE DAY

“No Longer Slaves” #20 Key of F

Vs.1 You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Bridge You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing

Chorus I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

I am a child of God
(Repeat)
I am a child of God
(Repeat 3 times)

Vs.2 From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins
(Chorus 2x)

MESSAGE

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ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) "No Longer Slaves" #20 Key of F

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)

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Just Want to Be A Sheep" by the Trinity Early Learning Center Children

† WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE †

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION SONGS

"Come As You Are" #77 Key of D

Vs.1 Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure
(Chorus)

Chorus (So) Lay down your burdens
lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart
Come as you are

Bridge Come as you are
Fall in His arms
Come as you are

Vs.3 There's joy for the morning O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
(Chorus)

Vs.2 There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace

Ending Come as you are
Come as you are
Come as you are

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"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death" (Instrumental) #49 Key of E

COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"House of the Lord" #65 Key of A

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 yeah

Chorus 1 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

Interlude	<i>Oh oh oh We shout out Your praise</i>	Bridge	<i>('Cause) 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)</i>
Vs.2	<i>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</i>		
Chorus 1	<i>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</i>	Ending	<i>We shout out Your praise There is joy in this house There is joy in this house today We shout out Your praise We shout out Your praise</i>

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Greg Zahn who went to heaven 22 years ago, by Roger & Becky Hinner and family.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Marjorie Zocher and Matthew Zocher from Delmar, Mike, Angie and Brody Zocher.

EASTER BREAKFAST - Start a new tradition with your family! Enjoy Easter Breakfast at Trinity Church on Easter morning. Breakfast will be served from 7:00-10:30 and will include pancakes (regular, banana, chocolate chip & blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and some delicious sweets. Join us Easter morning and bring the family. Free Will donation accepted.

MEMORY HEART TREE - Show your love for a 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!

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 are served each 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 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 are being served 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. 25- Sponsored by the Trinity Youth – Tacos

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

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

March 18- TBD (Please volunteer to help with this meal)

March 25- TBD (Please volunteer to help with this meal)

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.

NO 6:00 PM Church Service on March 15 or March 22. Our Church is hosting the Bow the Knee Musical and will need March 15 for rehearsal and to set up the stage and props. The Musical itself will be held on March 21st at 7:00 PM and March 22nd at 2:30 PM . This is an event you need to attend. It is a beautiful reenactment of Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection. Bring your family and friends.