



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

March 1, 2026 - 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM D.S. 1

The Second Sunday in Lent

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jon Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as Liturgist and Mark Knorr as the Lector. Polly Schneider is the organist today.

OPENING HYMN

“There Is a Redeemer”

LSB 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

Text and tune: Melody Green, 1946, alt. Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

INVOCATION

A In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen.**

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

KYRIE

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-9

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who

bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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

(8:00 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC:** by the Trinity School Students in celebration of Lutheran Schools Week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

⁴ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

- A The Holy Gospel according to St. John the third chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

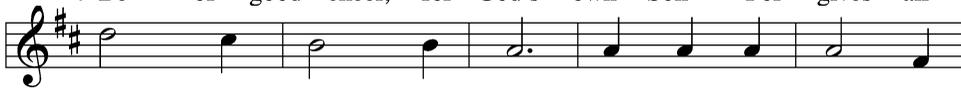
HYMN OF THE DAY

"God Loved the World So That He Gave"

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5. *If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:*

*Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.*

6. *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!*

*To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

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)*

OFFERTORY

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

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.

BENEDICTION

- P 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.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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Today's radio broadcast was not sponsored.
The Flowers on the altar are sponsored in loving memory of Herb Lau by Shawn & Laurie Schultz and family.

DON'T MISS THIS... BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

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!

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 after the 10:30 service. 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.*

EASTER BREAKFAST - Continue a Tradition, or start a new one 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), pure maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and some delicious sweets. Join us on Easter Morning and bring the family. (A Free Will donation will be accepted)

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

Lenten Lunches are being served each Wednesday 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 are being served on Wednesday's 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:

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



**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

