



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

March 1, 2026 - 10:30 AM
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

PRE-SERVICE: *“My Savior My God”* #57 Key of D (Praise Team)
 “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” #6 Key of D (Praise Team)

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG *“Won’t Stop Now”* #39 Key of E

Vs.1 *I give You glory
For all You’ve brought me through
And now I’m ready
For whatever You want to do*

Vs.4 *The cross before me
My hope on things above
And in You Jesus
The best is yet to come*

Vs.2 *I’m moving forward
To follow after You
And now I’m ready
For whatever You want to do*

(Chorus)
Bridge *I know breakthrough is coming
By faith I see a miracle
My God made me a promise
And it won’t stop now
(Repeat 3X)*

Chorus *Your presence is an open door
We want You Lord like never before
Your presence is an open door
So come now Lord like never before*

(Chorus) *Note to Praise Team-
tempo slows down to 108 and sing
quietly*

Vs.3 *In every season
Your grace has been enough
And I’m believing
The best is yet to come*

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INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

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

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

People: **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.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (Romans 5:3-5)

"More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

SONG

"Steadfast Love (Psalm 33)" #85 Key of D

Vs.1 *By the Word of the Lord
the heavens were made
And by the breath of His mouth
the heavenly host
He gathers the deep
and stores them in place
The foundations were formed
the moment that He spoke*

Pre-Chorus 1 *It was all at His command
So we stand in awe of Him*

Chorus ***Great is Your steadfast love
Great is Your steadfast love
Forever You're reigning in beauty
and splendor
Here in the waiting Lord
You are the great reward
How constant Your goodness
How steadfast Your love (for us)***

Vs.2 *The eyes of the Lord are on those who
fear Him
Those who hope in His word
won't be put to shame
His promise will stand for all generations
And our hearts will be glad for we trust in
His name*

Pre-Chorus 2 *And His wisdom never ends
So we stand in awe of Him*

(Chorus)

Bridge *We have seen and we believe
In Jesus Christ the love of the Father
And as we wait we trust and praise
His holy name for there is no other
(Repeat)*

(Chorus)

Tag *How constant Your goodness
how steadfast Your love
How constant Your goodness
How steadfast Your love for us*

Ending *Oh how steadfast Your love for us*

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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.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-9

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. ² And 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. ³ I 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC - by the Trinity School Students in celebration of Lutheran Schools Week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

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.

GOSPEL READING John 3:1-17

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

12 speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 13 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 14 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 16 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 18 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.

SONG OF THE DAY

“God So Loved” #75 Key of E

Vs.1 *Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more*

Vs.2 *Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for*

Chorus 1 ***For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever***

Vs.3 *Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms*

Chorus 2 ***For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world***

Bridge *Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love
(Repeat)*

Chorus 3 ***For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save***
(Chorus 2)

Vs.4 *Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world*

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING (Instrumental) “God So Loved”

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“I Am”

#69 Key of E

Vs.1 *There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place where we can't find peace
There's no end to amazing grace*

Vs.2 *Take me in with Your arms spread wide
Take me in like an orphan child
Never let go never leave my side*

Chorus *I am holding onto You
I am holding onto You
In the middle of the storm
I am holding on (I am)*

Vs.3 *Love like this O my God to find
I am overwhelmed with a joy divine
Love like this sets our hearts on fire*

(Chorus 2X)

Bridge *This is my resurrection song
This is my hallelujah come
This is why it's to You I run
(Repeat)*

*There's no space that His love can't reach
There's no place where we can't find peace
There's no end to amazing grace*

(Chorus 2x)

Ending *I am
In the middle of the storm
I am holding on I am*

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Today's radio broadcast was not sponsored

The Flowers on the altar are sponsored are 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.

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 11:30 AM. 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 Wednesdays 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

EASTER BREAKFAST - Enjoy Easter Breakfast at Trinity Church on Easter morning. Breakfast will be served from 7:15-10:30 and will include pancakes (regular, banana, chocolate chip & blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and some delicious sweets. Join us on Easter morning and bring the family. Free-Will Offering.

SECRET PRAYER SUPPORT. Keep that name a SECRET until Easter time when you mail a signed card to him/her, revealing your identity. Galatians 6:2 asks us "to share each other's burdens." Let's practice that!