

Final Sunday of Trinity

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

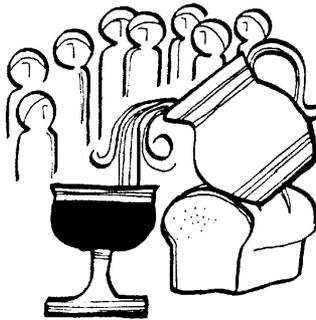
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

Organist Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 618 *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

Liturgy Page 12ff. in the front of the Worship Supplement

Epistle Lesson Revelation 21:1-7 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:1-13 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Hymn 72 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Sermon Psalm 139:7-12 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and

the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You.

God is There...

Offering of Thankful Hearts

The Communion Liturgy

Distribution Hymns 755 (add. stanzas below), 702, 703, 704

6. How shall I live For Him who fully doth forgive My sinful ways?
Through all my days I'll strive to honor Him with praise;
Until the end, my life amend.

7. What shall I fear Though dangers threaten and be near?
His promise sure, Makes me secure, He guides my life from year to year.
So faithfully, God is with me.

8. I, too, shall rise To join my Savior in the skies; When trumpets blast,
And life is past -- He will from death awaken me.
Eternally, with Him I'll be.

9. What can I say To ever thank Him for His grace? I'll take my place
Among His saints, And join my tongue in word and song. O taste and see,
Praise God with me.

CLOSE-COMMUNION In 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Paul writes, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*" The Lord's Supper is called "*holy communion*" because of the connection between different elements as one. The bread and wine are one with the body and blood of Jesus. The Greek uses a special word to describe this. It could rightly be translated: "*the very body and the very blood*" of Christ.

There is another oneness, "*For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.*" This is an intimate connection between those who are united in faith and doctrine. For this reason, we practice close-communion, which means that only those who are members of St. John's or of the CLC congregation are communed at our altar. This is not a judgment on anyone's personal faith or standing with God.

ELECTION MEETING This will be held next Sunday after the service. Our thanks to the Nominating Committee for drafting a list of candidates. Changes or additions can be made from the floor.

DECORATING We are grateful to the individuals who purchased and set up the tree, decorated it, and hung garland, decorations, and lights in the sanctuary. This is a huge time-saver for us all. There are a few things that remain to be done. If you are able to help with them after today's service, your efforts will be appreciated.

ADVENT The season of Advent begins next Sunday. This will also be the first rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Service. The first midweek service will be held on Wednesday evening, December 5.

PIONEER VILLAGE Our choir will be singing at Pioneer Village from 7-8 on Friday evening, December 7, and again on Saturday, December 8.

COOKIE EXCHANGE Anyone interested in a Christmas cookie exchange this holiday season, please talk to Ruth Eigenberg or Lori Ruthenbeck.

CLC NEWS Pastor Douglas Libby, Eden Prairie, MN has returned the call to Morris, MN.

Immanuel Christmas Events As Christmas approaches, there are a few upcoming Immanuel (ILC) events. On Sun., Dec. 9, 3 pm, there will be the piano/organ recital at the campus fieldhouse. The highlight of the music department will be the Christmas concert at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 pm. This will include the flute choir, band, mass choir, and tour choir. The choir portion of the event is considered a sacred worship service as the students sing the Christmas Gospel message. This is always a spiritually edifying concert to help one focus, even in the midst of the busy holiday season, on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This concert ends the busy Finals Week for the students as they conclude their first semester of the academic year with their various tests and projects. The students resume classes on Jan. 7.

USHERS Joshua T., Bruce E., Steve R., Joe L., Nathan A.
Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Ryan D.

CLEANING (Wk 1) J. Jensen, M. DeWall, S. DeWall
R. Gustaf, J. Zuehlke