

## Quinquagesima Sunday

# 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*

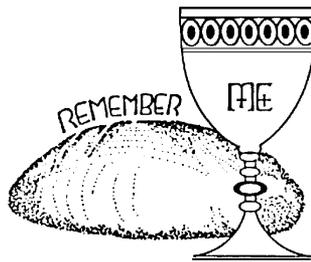
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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 more about our beliefs and practices, the pastor will be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

**Organ Prelude** Mrs. Lana Strike

**Youth Choir** *I Sing as I Arise Today (Insert)*

**Hymn** 344 *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

**Liturgy** Page 46 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

**CDS** *The Lord's My Shepherd (Insert)*

**Epistle Lesson** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 18:31-43 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise to God.

**Hymn** 409:1-3 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

**Sermon** Daniel 5:1ff. King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together... And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians..." That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.

## **Deciphering the Handwriting of God...**

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Distribution Hymns** 755 (extra stanzas on Insert), 399, 371, 377

**Closing Hymn** 409:4 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

**HOLY COMMUNION** The Bible tells us to be *"perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* One way that unity is expressed is by communing together. We therefore ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.

**CALL MEETING** Lord willing, the Call meeting will be resumed immediately after today's service. There are also two membership items that the voters

will consider. Kassie Voit has finished the membership classes and has applied for membership. Kristin Liepold has requested a transfer to the church in Kansas City. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** This Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Services will be held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. A finger-food lunch will follow. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Wednesday night. Be sure to use this special opportunity to worship God and to grow in your faith.

**CALLING TREE** A number of people did not find out about the service being cancelled on February 17 until they arrived at church. If there is an alternate number to use for you, please make it known to those who are scheduled to call you. If there is any question about the status of the service, please contact the pastor or one of the Elders.

**TOUR CHOIR** Posters for the upcoming Tour Choir concert are available on the entryway table. The concert is at 7 o'clock on Friday, March 15. A sign-up sheet for housing is also in the entryway. A finger-food luncheon will be served after the concert. With visitors expected, please plan accordingly.

**DAILY REST** The first quarterly publication of the new, CLC devotional booklet has arrived. The publication was approved and authorized by last summer's Convention. Each household is welcome to take a copy for free. If you like what you see, subscriptions will be available for \$15 / year.

**CARD ORDERS** If you are interested in ordering greeting cards, please see the catalog in the entryway. The orders need to be placed today. See Lori Ruthenbeck or Jolene Albrecht with questions.

**TOURNAMENT** A number of our families will be traveling to Eau Claire on Thursday night to participate in the CLC Grade School BB tournament. The games will be viewable online. Our team plays at 5 p.m. Friday, and at 1:30 and 5:30 on Saturday. <https://ilc.edu/activities/live-events/> May the Lord bless them with safe travel and an enjoyable time with their fellow Christians.

**USHERS** Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B., Jonathen L., Jonah A.  
Phil S., Zachary S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Ryan D.

**CLEANING** (Wk 3) R. Gustaf, J. Zuehlke  
J. DeWall, R. DeWall, T. DeWall, J. Kazemba