

The Sixteenth Sunday after 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.

As with other public buildings in MN, masks are now required for churches. We also practice social distancing as recommended by our government. Please do not use any of the pews where the seat cushions have been turned on edge, and reserve socializing for the outdoors. Thank you.

If you would like to know more about our church's doctrine and practice, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience. We hope that you will join us again, soon.

**Prelude** Mrs. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 541 *O Blessed Holy Trinity*

**Liturgy** Page 5ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Thy strong word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious, now we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess:  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to thee who light does send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia without end.

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the Holy Trinity!  
- WS 775 -

**Old Testament Lesson** Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32 The word of the Lord came to me.

What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? As surely as I live, declares the Lord God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. Indeed, all souls are Mine. The soul of the father is Mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die. But you say, "The Lord's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it My way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. But the house of Israel says, "The Lord's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord God. So repent and live! [EHV]

**Epistle Lesson** Philippians 2:1-11 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though He was by nature God, He did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but He emptied Himself by taking the nature of a servant. When He was born in human likeness, and His appearance was like that of any other man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [EHV]

**Hymn** 342 *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

**Sermon** Matthew 21:28-32 [Jesus told a parable saying], “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” [The chief priests and elders] said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.”

# What Does God Want?

Ministry by Mail, Pastor Michael Eichstadt

## The Offertory

Hymn 371:1-4, 6 *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

## The Benediction

Hymn 395:1-2 *O God, Thou Faithful God*

**THANK YOU** We owe a special thanks to Dr. Sumey for handling the service today in the pastor's absence.

**COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. The pastor will be glad to commune you privately at your request.

**HOSPITALIZED** Austin Fogelman had an emergency appendectomy last week and is recovering at home. Please remember him in your prayers.

**MISSION FESTIVAL** Mission Festival will be held on October 11, with Pastor Drehle of Sioux Falls as our guest speaker. Please indicate to one of the Elders if you are in favor of holding an outdoor, picnic potluck, weather permitting.

**GREETING CARDS** The new order form is in the entryway, as is the new catalog. The order can be placed on October 3.

**PAVERS AVAILABLE** In order to simplify the grounds-care at the teacherage, some of the landscaping pavers have been removed. These are available to our members for free. There's a pallet of samples on the west side of the house. Please let one of the Trustees know if you are interested.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Chad Seybt has accepted the call to the tri-parish of Fairchild, Millston, and Onalaska, WI. Professor John Reim has announced his retirement, effective at the end of this school year.

**CLEANING** (Wk 3) C. Ahrens, A. Fogelman, M. Fogelman  
R. Gustaf, D. Voit, N. Voit