

The Twenty-third 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*

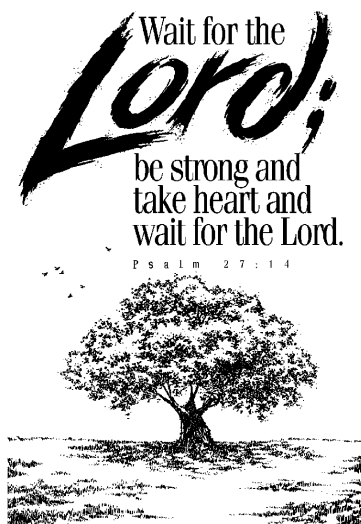
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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.

These final Sundays of the Church year give us an opportunity to consider the transient nature of life on earth and the permanence of our home in heaven. Included are the final events that will take place when Jesus appears in glory for the judgment of all mankind.

Unfortunately, there is much misinformation about this topic today. For example, some churches teach that people will be judged merely on the basis of what they were. Christians will be judged on the basis of their Christianity; non-Christians on the basis of how well they did with the natural knowledge of God they possessed; Muslims will be judged by their standards, etc.

It isn't hard to see who is behind this idea. The devil will use every lie imaginable to turn people away from the clear teachings of Scripture and turn them toward the kind of twisted and sinful thinking that appeals to human nature. Nevertheless, the Scriptures are clear that salvation is found in Christ alone. Our faith needs to be anchored in His Word and needs to rely solely on His saving grace.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

**Prelude** Mrs. Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 616 *Forever with the Lord*

**Liturgy** page 12 ff. in the front of the Worship Supplement.

**Old Testament Lesson** Amos 5:18-24

Woe to those who long for the Day of the Lord!  
What good will the Day of the Lord be for you?  
It will be darkness and not light.  
It will be as if a man flees from a lion,  
but a bear meets him,  
or he enters a house and rests his hand on a wall,  
but a snake bites him.  
Will not the Day of the Lord be darkness and not light,  
gloom without a trace of brightness?

I hate, I reject, your festivals!  
I do not delight in the aroma of the sacrifices at your sacred  
convocations.  
Even if you offer up to Me your whole burnt offerings  
and your grain offerings,

I will not accept them.

I will not pay any attention to your fellowship offerings  
of fattened calves.

Get the noise of your songs away from Me!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

But let justice roll like the waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. [EHV]

**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** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we

shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

## The Blessing of Christian Grief...

### Offering of Thankful Hearts

**Hymn** 592:1-3, 5-6 *I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name*

### Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

### The Benediction

**Hymn** 728 *Christ is Living*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** The Sunday School students will be singing in the service next Sunday. Parents, please plan accordingly.

**BOOK STUDY** The group meets again on Monday, November 20.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** Our annual Thanksgiving Day service will be held one week from Thursday. The first Sunday in Advent falls on December 3. The first of three midweek services will be held on December 6.

**MISSION HELPER TRIP** If you are interested in serving on next summer's trip to East Africa, please see the poster downstairs. The application deadline is in January.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor David Reim, Vernon, BC has the call to Marquette/Iron River, MI. Pastor Luke Bernthal, Mt. View, CA has the call to Mankato.

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**USHERS** 11/12 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.  
11/19 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.  
11/26 Kendall B., Larry B. Jonathen L.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 4) D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumeiy  
The Albrechts