24th Sunday after Trinity
November 15th, 2026
Liturgy: WS p. 22
Pianist: Anna Ahrens

CLC



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.
P.O. Box 98
Okabena, MN 56161

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor
(414) 534 - 7279
sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com

www.okabenalutheran.org

✢ Opening Prayer ✢

Hymn: WS #705 *"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"*

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Pastor
Confession of Our Sins **C Congregation**

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
P Let us pray.
C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The Gloria Patri *TLH #39:5*

C ♫ ***Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly for aye we adore Him.***

The Introit *Ps. 143:1-2, 5-6, 10-11*

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

C **Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

C **I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

C **For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice-- "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all

the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.



Confession of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

C I BELIEVE…

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn: TLH #451 *"Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus"*



Matthew 25:14-30

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over

much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

What is the Master *Really* Like?
Beyond What We Imagine Him to Be

The Offertory *TLH #400:5*

C ♫ ***Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.***

✢ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✢

Hymn: TLH #400:1-4, 6 *"Take My Life and Let it Be"*

✢ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✢

The Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #261 *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"*

Kinship Sponsors Needed – After the CLC declared fellowship with the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in 2020, the CLC Board of Missions has been working together with the BLCM to establish a local seminary for pastoral training. There is currently one BLCM pastor serving 1,715 souls across 19 congregations and 14 preaching stations in a country that is 95% Muslim. However, this January, 14 men will begin their pastoral training as the inaugural seminary class of the BLCM. Sponsors are needed to help these men receive their training so that they may join in the abundant work in Bangladesh. The cost of a sponsorship will be $60 per month. To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email Dan Roehl. (Cell: 507-381-2042; Email: danroehl@hotmail.com)

2027 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal Postponed – Due to increased government scrutiny and restrictions on Christian activities and the recent arrest and deportation of several foreign Christians in Nepal, the 2027 Mission Helper Trip has been postponed until further notice. This decision was made with the advice and counsel of HCLC-Nepal church leaders to protect their ongoing Gospel ministry from government interference. Please keep our Nepali brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers. While no international Mission Helper Trips are planned for 2027, stateside TVBS opportunities will be available. A Mission Helper Trip to Mexico is also being planned as a trial run for future opportunities. Future trips, such as Bangladesh and the Philippines are also being considered as the Lord opens doors.

Ushers	11/15	Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.
	11/22	Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	11/29	Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.
Cleaning		This Week – The Eigenbergs (wk. 2)
		Next – Fogelman, Ahrens, Sullivan

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 16th - 21st, 2026

Mon Matthew 9:18-26 Matthew does not name Jairus, but he surely names Jesus. Although Jesus was "delayed" by another request for help, and the girl had died, Jesus was still the Master of the situation!

Tues Colossians 1:9-14 Paul continues to pray for the Colossian believers, that their faith might bear fruit, and that they might endure everything with joyful thanksgiving to God for bringing them into the kingdom.

Wed Isaiah 51:9-16 The Lord encourages the believers to look to His arm of strength, which gloriously brought forth His people from Egypt through the Red Sea (v10). He will surely deliver His people again!

Thurs Psalm 18:1-6 David had powerful enemies, but he recognized that his strength and protection were from the Lord alone. It was to the Lord God that he called out, and He heard his voice (v6)!

Fri Psalm 18:7-19 When the Lord comes in answer to His children's cry, the earth trembles. He is mightier than the strongest enemy. He scatters His foes, and rescues His child, whom He loves (v19).

Sat Psalm 125 "Those who trust in the Lord" will not be shaken, but have peace (v5). As the mountains surround the valley, so the Lord surrounds His people, delivers from wickedness, and deals with it Himself.

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755. Scriptures quoted are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.