1st Sunday of Advent
November 29th, 2026
Liturgy: WS p. 12 (Communion)
Organist: Lana Strike

CLC

Stir up your power...



...and come.

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: TLH #64 *"Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes"*

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

[P] Pastor
[C] Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

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

[P] We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

[C] Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

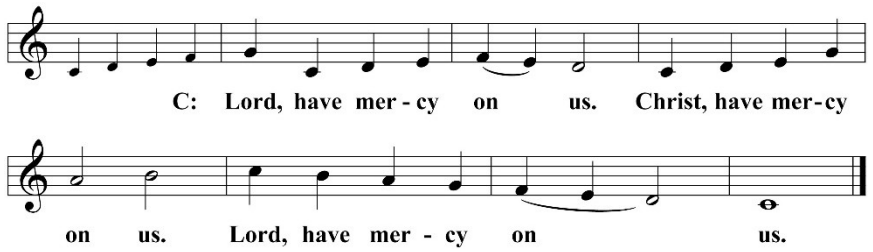


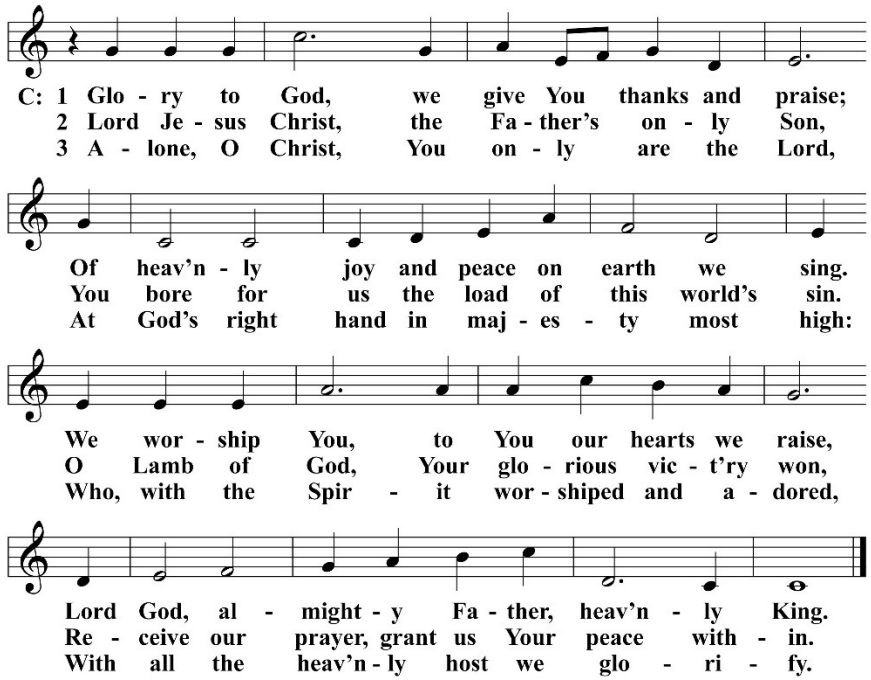
[P] God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

[C] Amen!

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"





Collect Prayer of the Day

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence-- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. 5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold,

you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. 8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.



Mark 11:1-10

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4 And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. 5 And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C ♫ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 30th - December 6th, 2026

Mon John 12:12-18 A large crowd, some of whom witnessed the raising of Lazarus, hears that Jesus is coming to Jerusalem and meets and greets Him as a King. But His entrance is humble, on a donkey's colt.

Tues Romans 13:11-14 In view of our coming salvation, let us put away deeds of darkness and the desires of our sinful flesh. Instead let us put on weapons of light, clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wed Jeremiah 23:5-8 The Lord promises a greater deliverance than from Egypt. He will bring His people back from Babylon in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, "The Lord our Righteousness" (v6).

Thurs Isaiah 40:1-5 Double comfort through guilt fully paid for is God's promise to His people. All the preparations for His coming will result in the revealing of the glory of the Lord (v3-5) through His redemption.

Fri Psalm 24:1-6 The Lord owns the whole earth. He made it and blesses it. He is served by those who have received righteousness and salvation from Him. These are the people who look for the Lord (v6).

Sat Psalm 24:7-10 Let no door remain closed to the Lord, who wins our every battle for us. Let the doors also of our hearts open wide every year, every day, that the King of Glory might come in and be our King!

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Nomination Committee Proposal - Election Meeting December 13, 2026

(Nominations also welcomed from the floor.)

Office	Term	Current	Tenure	Nominees
Elder	3 yrs	**Regan Lueck**	24-26	James Albrecht
		Brandt Wendland	25-27	Regan Lueck
		David Schmidt	26-28	
Trustee	3 yrs	**Les Ruthenbeck III**	24-26	Monte Rosen
		Duane Voit	25-27	Les Ruthenbeck III
		Jim Sullivan	26-28	
Chairman	1 yr	**Phil Strike**	23-26	Phil Strike
				Nathan Voit
Secretary	1 yr	**Christian Kazemba**	25-26	Joshua Eigenberg
				Christian Kazemba
Treasurer	1 yr	**Nathan Albrecht**	23-26	Joseph Albrecht
				Nathan Albrecht
Education	3 yrs	**Lloyd Kalfs***	21-26	Ron Strike / Nathan Voit
		Steve Winters	22-27	James Albrecht
		Jim Kazemba	26-28	Rick Gustaf
			27-28	Christian Kazemba
			27-28	Bennett Olmanson
Finance	2 yrs	**Joseph Albrecht**	25-26	James Albrecht
		Lance Baumann	25-26	Joseph Albrecht
		Don Lueck	25-26	Lance Baumann
		Larry Boernsen	24-27	Steve DeWall
		Rick Gustaf	26-27	Don Lueck
		Josh Zuehlke	26-27	Todd Rosen
Cemetery	3 yrs	**Craig Ahrens**	24-26	Craig Ahrens
		Joe Liepold	22-27	Steve DeWall
		Mike Fogelman	26-28	

Name in bold = present term is completed
Voters can hold more than one office.
*Six years completed or does not wish to hold the same office in the next term
** Appointed to fulfill another's term

~ "Only such members as have been voting members of the congregation for at least one year shall be eligible for election to a regular office in the congregation."
(St. John's Constitution, Section 5.07)

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 #95 *"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Always Enriched, Never Coming Short

Preaching today is Seminarian Daniel Hein

The Offertory

C ***♫ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.***

✢ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✢

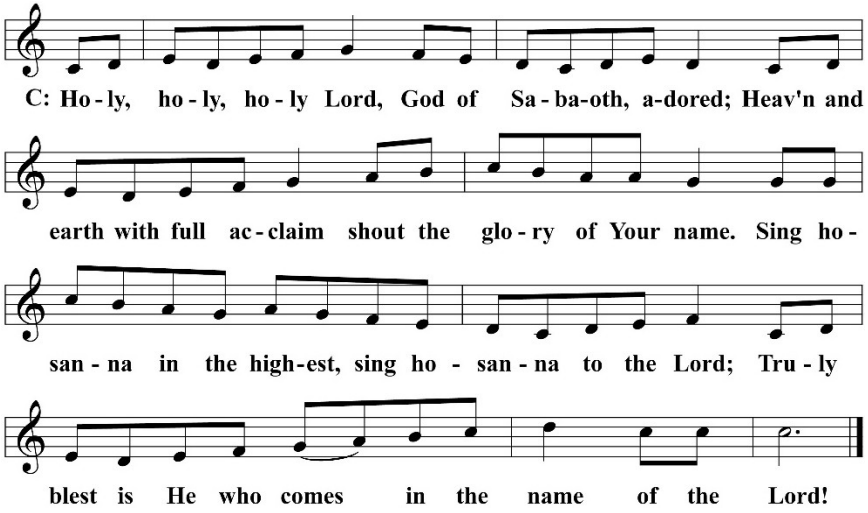
Hymn: TLH #374 *"Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound"*

✢ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✢

The Order of Holy Communion



℗ The Lord be with you.
℄ And also with you.
℗ Lift up your hearts!
℄ We lift them up to the Lord.
℗ It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, through your Son whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore



praising You and saying:

The Words of Institution *Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

℗ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He

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)

CLC Call News – Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has ***received*** the call to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has ***returned*** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Peter Reim of Eau Claire, WI, has ***received*** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Bruce Naumann, who serves as the CLC's full-time missionary to East Africa, has ***received*** the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. **<>** Pastor Chad Seybt of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melrose, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI, has ***accepted*** the call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood, SD.

Advent Theme: "Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes…"

Dec. 2	Pastor Sippert	*"…with comfort to Him who waits."*
Dec. 9	Pastor Mayhew	*"…with enlightenment to him who does not understand."*
Dec. 16	Pastor Rodebaugh	*"…with proof to him who doubts."*

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 #73:1, 4-5 *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

✢ ✢ ✢

Thank you to Daniel Hein for sharing the Word with us today!

Christmas Decorating will be done after church this morning.

Midweek Advent Services begin this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Once again, we are taking part in a pulpit exchange with Immanuel of Mankato and Grace of Sleepy Eye. Our Advent theme for the three Wednesdays is "Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes…" Pastor Zack Sippert will be preaching this Wednesday. As always, we will be having a finger food potluck following the Wednesday night services.

Advent VBS will begin on Tuesday at 3:20 pm and continue the next two Tuesdays after that. If you have children that can attend, please register them on our church website.

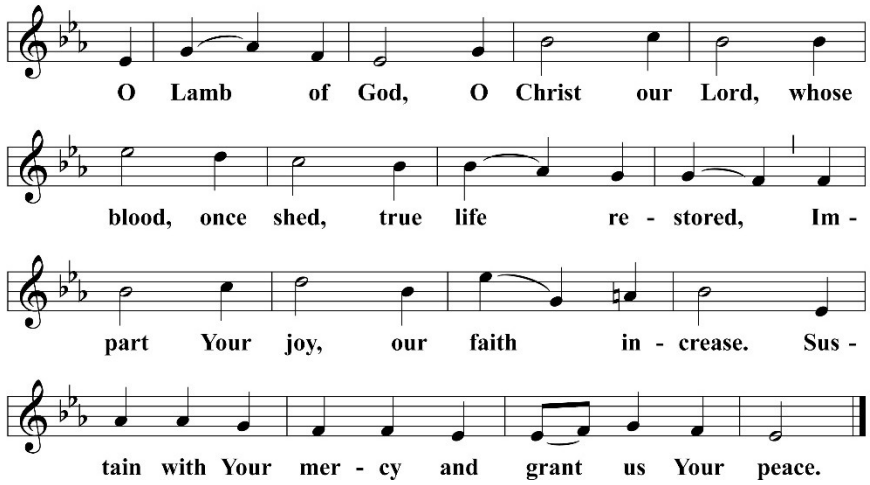
If you have volunteered to help, please meet in the kitchen after church with Ruth Eigenberg.

Ladies' Aid will be meeting for the annual Christmas potluck on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 pm. All the ladies of St. John's are invited!

Ushers	11/29	Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.
	12/6	Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.
	12/13	Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning		This Week – The Voits (wk. 4)
		Up Next – The Ruthenbecks

broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of



sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always!

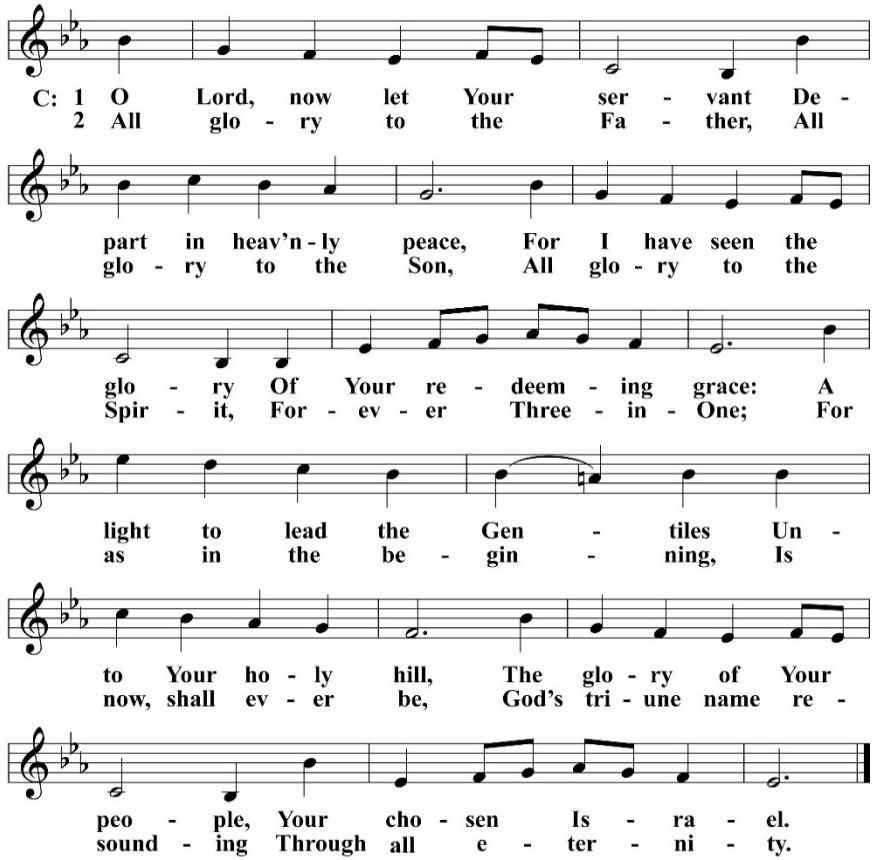
Our Sacrament of Communion Practice

- Holy Communion is correctly called a "Sacrament" because it is a "Sacred act"; not in what we do for Christ, but in what *Christ* does for us.
- God's Word also presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16- 17; Rom. 15:5,6).
- We ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church to come forward for Communion at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, but rather an expression of our own (Rom.16:17-18).

✢ **The Distribution of the Lord's Supper** ✢

Distribution Hymns: *TLH #373; TLH #311*

After the distribution, we'll continue with the singing of the Nunc Dimittis:



℗ Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

