

July 5, 2020

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The Fourth 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.

Please note that we wish to 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.

**Prelude** Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

**Hymn** 28 *Now Let All Loudly*

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

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run:  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to Thee who light does send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia without end.

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life giving breath:  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to Thee who light does send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia without end.  
WS – 775

**Old Testament Lesson** Genesis 50:15-21 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.” So they sent *messengers* to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: “I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.” ’ Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we *are* your servants.”

Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Epistle Lesson** Romans 8:18-25 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that,

but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance."

**Hymn** 613 *Jerusalem the Golden*

**Sermon** Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

## The Impossible is Possible in Christ...

**Hymn** 326 *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** [*Projected on the Wall*]

**COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper will be offered immediately after the close of today's service. Communicant members of St. John's or of a sister congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confess will be communed.

**SATURDAY SERVICE** A special service for those who are at high risk for COVID-19 will be held on Saturday evening at 6 o'clock. The service is open to all, but facemasks and social distancing are required.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE** The chairman wishes to remind each board to have a solid number in mind for the new fiscal year. Each board should have one representative at the meeting (after church today).

**WALKERS** The church has received a number of walkers (some with seats built-in) that are available to any who needs one. They are on display in the basement. Help yourself to the paper, as well.

**CONFIRMATION** Lord willing, 6 of our young people will be confirmed in their Christian faith during the service next Sunday. Confirmands are to meet at church on Friday evening at 6:30.

**CLC NEWS** Pastor Richard Kanzenbach, Millston/Fairchild/Onalaska, WI has the call to Lemmon, SD. Professor Steven Sippert has the call to Morris, MN.

**BOOK** Deborah Ude's second book, "*Came By Train*," is now available. She shares her profession of Christ painting the daily life of Christian faith. It is published this on Amazon Kindle Direct. (The digital version of "*Came By Train*" is \$2.99 and the printed paperback is \$11.99)

"*Came by Train*" is a directly connected sequel to "*Steeple in the Distance*", V.1 in the series.

"Many of you purchased Debi's first book, '*Steeple in the Distance*.' There are actually six books she wrote before joining Jesus and all the saints. She asked me to get them published. It has taken me much longer to get the second volume published then I intended. In part because of everything involved. There is a change in the approach to publishing with this book. I am not publishing Debi's books to make money, but I would like to avoid losing money. So, in order to keep the book less expensive for you, and avoid a negative balance on my part, I have published this on Amazon Kindle Direct." – Prof. John Ude

**ILHS Graduation** Due to COVID-19, Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI, has rescheduled its graduation for Sat., Aug. 1, 10:30 am. While in the past this has been a public worship service open to anyone, attendance this year will be "by invitation only" due to local gathering limitations. This will be viewable as live stream or archived at [ilc.edu](http://ilc.edu). The college and seminary had their graduation service on May 30. May the LORD continue to keep our graduates in His care as they look to His Word with all their future endeavors.

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