

Septuagesima Sunday

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*

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-853-4417

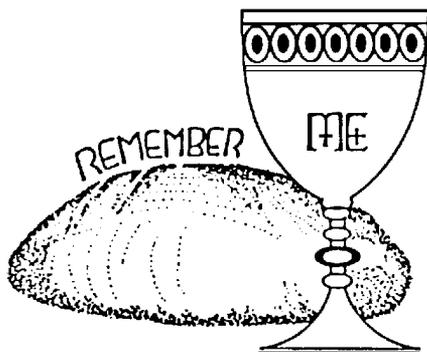
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[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)



**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.

As with other public buildings in MN, masks are 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. Thank you.

**Prelude** Mrs. Jennifer Dukleth

**Hymn** 129 *Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing*

**Liturgy** Page 15 ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, To His feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious is His faithfulness.

+ WS 742:1-2 +

**Epistle Lesson** 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 20:1-16 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’

“So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the

first.’ And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, saying, ‘These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

**Hymn** 447 *Fight the Good Fight*

**Sermon** Matthew 8:1-13 “When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

## Fall Before Jesus in Faith

Seminarian Jonah Albrecht

## The Offertory

Hymn 134 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

## Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

## The Benediction

Hymn 339:1, 5, 7 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**THANK YOU** A special thanks to Jonah for his Gospel message today. He will finish his first year of Seminary in May. It's important for our Sem students to have opportunities to preach (besides their class sermons and chapel talks at ILC).

**MISSION SOCIETY** There will be a short meeting after the service to discuss possible dates for the anniversary celebration.

**BIRTHDAY** Herman Eigenberg will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday. If you'd like to send a card: 290 Riverbluff Drive, Windom, MN 56101.

**FLOWERS** The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Evelyn Aden. Her birthday would have been today.

**COMMUNION** The Lord's Supper will be celebrated after our service. Communicants may remain in the pew and the Elders will distribute the elements. If you are visiting the service, please be aware of the fact that we practice close-communion, which means that membership is a prerequisite for participating in the Sacrament. In no way is this a judgment on your personal faith or standing with God. The pastor will be happy to explain the biblical reasons for this practice.

**CLC NEWS** Teacher Ross Kok, Phoenix, has the call to Markesan, WI. Pastor Mark Tiefel, Lynnwood, WA has the call to Cheyenne. There will be two Teaching Graduates and one Seminary Graduate this Spring.

ILC is accepting applicants for the 2021-22 year: an adult male for the boys' dorm and an adult female for the girls' dorm.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 1) S. Aden, B. Dronen, J. Thaemlitz  
The Boernsens, the Liepolds