

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

May 19th – 24th, 2025

Mon John 17:9-19 The night before His death, Jesus prays for His disciples, that they may be protected by the Father's name (v11) from the Evil One (v15), filled with Jesus' joy (v13), set apart by His Word (17).

Tues 1 John 3:1-8 Seeing the love of God fills us with eternal hope. In view of this glorious future, let us not keep on sinning. Sin is lawlessness and from the Devil, but Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.

Wed Exodus 17:1-7 After having received quail in the evening and manna in the morning, in a water shortage the people were ready to give up on God. But God did not give up on them!

Thurs Isaiah 49:8-13 The promise held out to the Lord's Servant is to the benefit of the people. It means release to the prisoners, relief from hunger and thirst, shouts of joy as the Lord comforts His people.

Fri John 15:10-17 In His great love our Savior heads to the cross, desiring that His disciples remain in His love and joy. There is no greater love than His, and showing His love to one another they will bear fruit.

Sat John 16:5-15 Facing the cross tomorrow, Jesus already promises to send the Counselor to His disciples (v7). He, the Spirit of truth, will guide them into all truth, glorifying Jesus who sent Him.



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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18th, 2025

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

Organist: Kathy Lueck



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #747

"Earth and All Stars"

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

G ♪ Amen.

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

G Congregation

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

G ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

G ♪ Amen.

Delegates Needed – If you are a voter and are willing to volunteer to serve as a delegate for St. John's for the 2025 Minnesota Delegates Conference in Mankato on June 7th, please speak with Pastor or one of the Elders.

Directory Updates – On the table in the entryway are the current on-file addresses and phone numbers for the members of St. John's. Please take a look at your listing and update any out-of-date addresses or phone numbers. After finishing, put a checkmark next to your name. Even if you haven't had any updates, please still verify the information is correct and place a checkmark so we know everything is up-to-date. Thank you!

Church Softball Team? Christian Kazemba is trying to set up a St. John's softball team to play in a church softball league on Sunday nights near Windom this summer. There are no age or skill-level restrictions. If you are interested in playing or have any questions, please speak with Christian. Thanks!

The Branches is a women's magazine that serves to encourage you in your Bible study, edify you in your daily walk with Christ, and strengthen the bond of fellowship among Christian sisters. Renewals, new subscriptions, gift subscriptions all can be done at this time (deadline of June 15, please). Subscriptions are \$16.00 per year for 4 issues (print or digital version). All subscriptions and subscription inquiries can be sent to: Sandy Hulke / Subscription Manager / 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN, 55045. Payments can be made by PayPal (email Sandy for details) or check (payable to The Branches). Email: thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com.

Ushers	5/18	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	5/25	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	6/1	Kendall B, Larry B.
Cleaning	This Week – The Albrechts (wk. 3)	
	Up Next – The Eigenbergs	

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #360

"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

✠ 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.

G ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: TLH #50

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Saint Called Home – Our sister-in-Christ Iona Gehrls was called home to her eternal rest last Sunday, May 11th. We celebrated the victory Christ won for her this past Friday here at St. John's. Thanks be to God for delivering her from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven! Please keep her family in your prayers.

Special Voters' Meeting – Today, the voters are asked to meet immediately after the church service for the purpose of calling a part-time teacher.

Mowing Volunteers? If anyone would be willing to join a rotation for mowing the church property, please speak with Nathan or Duane Voit. There are a few individuals who are currently mowing or planning to mow, but it would be very helpful if a few more able bodies were able to help. Thanks!

St. John's Musical – The congregation is invited to the musical "Snow White and Friends" being put on by the students of St. John's. The musical will be held in the Okabena High School cafeteria on May 21st at 6:00 pm with refreshments to follow.

Graduation Invitation – The congregation is invited to Caleb Eigenberg's graduation reception on May 25th from 12 – 3 pm at 37168 State Highway 62, Heron Lake, MN.

The Introit

Ps. 98:1-4

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

P Sing to the Lord a new song, Alleluia, for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alleluia.

G **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

G **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P Sing to the Lord a new song, Alleluia, for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alleluia.

The Gloria Patri

TLH #199:4

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

G ♪ **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

G ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect Prayer of the Day

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G ♪ **Amen.**



James 1:16-21

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his

own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

P The Holy Gospel is written in the sixteenth chapter of St. John, beginning at the fifth verse:

G *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*



John 16:5-16

But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

P Here ends the Gospel.

G *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 #207

"Like the Golden Sun Ascending"



Isaiah 12:1-6

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry

with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

"Do You Hear the People Sing?"

Don't ask "who?" is singing—Ask "why?" they are singing.

The Offertory

G *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.*