

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

July 20th - 25th, 2026

Mon Mark 3:1-6 Jesus knows that He is being watched in order to accuse Him, but He restores the use of a man's hand anyway, and immediately the Pharisees begin to plot how they might get rid of Him.

Tues Mark 3:7-12 Jesus' healing ways attract such large crowds that they could even pose a hazard (v9), but perhaps a greater threat comes from unclean spirits, whose "help" He steadfastly refuses.

Wed Romans 6:19-23 Paul reminds us of the shameful deeds and fatal result of our former slavery to sin, that we might now rejoice to be slaves to God, with sanctified fruits and eternal life resulting.

Thurs Jeremiah 31:23-25 The Lord promises that He will unite His people once more and bring them back from the captivity they have deserved. They will bless His gathering place, and He will satisfy their needs.

Fri Psalm 125 Everyone trusts someone, but those who trust in the Lord are truly secure. The Lord even protects them from oppression that might tempt them to turn to evil ways in their own defense (v3).

Sat Psalm 119:49-56 The Word of God brings us hope, and hope brings comfort in times of suffering. Therefore His words will occupy our songs (v54) and remind us of His Name in the darkest of nights (v55).

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.

7th Sunday after Trinity

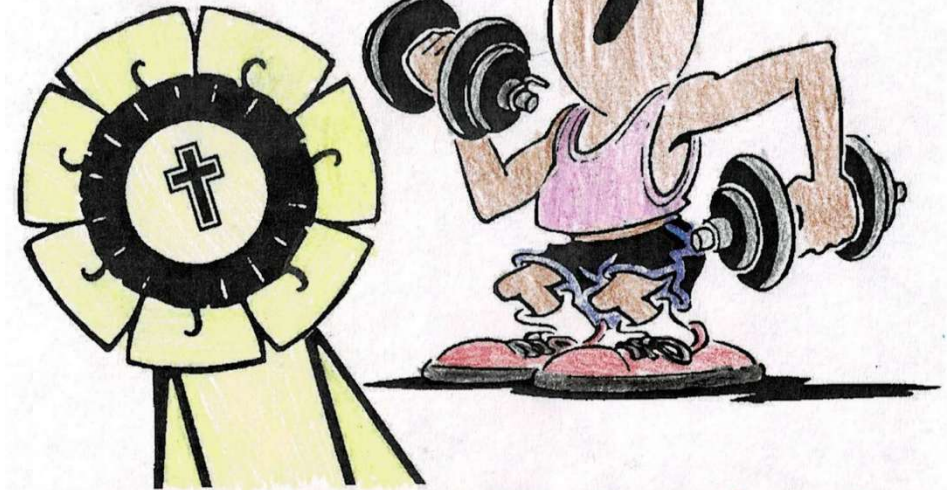
July 19th, 2026

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

Organist: Lana Strike



VBS 2026



CHAMPIONS for Jesus



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 #451

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

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.

Sunday School Picnic will be held following Family Bible Class. All are invited to stay for our annual picnic!

July Quarterly Meeting – The voting members of St. John's are invited and encouraged to attend our July Quarterly Meeting today, in the auditorium after church. Besides regular Board reports, the agenda will include: St. John's Budget for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027), Reformation Service schedule, Mission Festival schedule / speaker, School Board to call prospective Sunday School teachers, October Quarterly Meeting date. Additional agenda items should be given to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

Pastor Out-of-Town – Pastor and family will be gone the next two Sundays, and out-of-town from the 23rd through the 7th. Pastor will be preaching for a wedding in Eau Claire and for a Mission Festival in Fond du Lac those two weekends, and the Rodebaughs will be taking vacation around these two preaching engagements. In case of emergency, please feel free to reach out via text, call, or email.

Phil Strike and Luke Strike will be leading lay services the next two Sundays in Pastor's absence, and communion will be celebrated next weekend as usual.

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip East Africa – Eleven Mission Helpers, along with Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann, are currently proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to an estimated 6,000 children in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. You can follow along by reading daily posts on the trip blog at www.2026clcmissionhelpertripeastafrica.blogspot.com.

Ushers	7/19	Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	7/26	Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.
	8/2	Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – The Boernsens (wk. 4)	
	Up Next – Lueck, Liepold	

harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

In Life, There are Winners, and There are Losers
Which ones are we?

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.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH 292:1-4, 9 “Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide”

✠ 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 #399:1-3, 6 “Thee Will I Love, My Strength”

✠ ✠ ✠

Thank you to everyone who made this week of VBS successful! It was a hot week, but a very fun week. Praise the Lord!

VBS Crafts – Many of the VBS crafts are on display in the church basement. The students are asked to take home their crafts today, along with their VBS t-shirts and folders. Thank you!

The Introit

Ps. 86:6, 11-15

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

- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
- G** **Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.**
- P** I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
- G** **For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**
- P** O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.
- G** **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**
- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

The Gloria Patri

TLH #237:1

Latin for “Glory be to the Father.”

G ♪ **All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!**

The Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** ♪ **Amen.**



Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

VBS Song

"Tell Me the Story of Jesus"



Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.



Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us.

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 #370

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"



Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'" . . . ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The