

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Dean W. Bard, Interim Senior Pastor
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April 09, 2017

9:00 & 11:00 AM

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



Everybody loves a parade! *Maybe. Maybe not.* Today we remember two parades in the Jesus story. For the first, we might picture anticipating crowds welcoming the team favored to win the championship. We call this Palm Sunday because, in the custom of Jesus' day, people cut leafy branches to spread along the path. Surely the hero is too good to walk on ordinary dirt!

We also call this Sunday of the Passion. "Passion" comes from the Latin word which means to suffer (not exactly the same way we use the word to describe personal motivation or sell movies). We cannot go directly from today's parade, expecting a championship, to next Sunday's Easter celebration. We remember another parade. To picture that parade, we may think of images from history as people lined up to see the condemned person on the way to the gallows, or even faces smiling at a lynching. We call that day, Good Friday. But is the suffering of this really good man really Good?

What about our own journey of faith? Will we follow Jesus faithfully in times that are easy and in times that are so very difficult? May we walk each day with Jesus, grateful for his sacrificial love and for the joy which comes only as we follow him, regardless of where he leads!

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S GATHERING AT THE ALTAR

(stand)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P The Lord be with you.

G *And also with you.*

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

P It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed as King of Kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palms along His way. Let these branches [raise palm branches] be for us signs of His victory, and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as Our King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life, who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

G *Amen.*

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

G *Hosanna in the highest!*

ENTRANCE HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

INVOCATION

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

G *Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Everlasting God,

G *in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
Amen.

WORD

(sit)

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Gospels devote so much space to the time between Palm Sunday and Easter. We have to conclude these few days are absolutely essential in God's plan to save the world. The Gospel of Matthew emphasizes that Jesus fulfills—answers—the long-time expectations of the Hebrew faith, even if God's way of doing so is not the way of power we would assume, would prefer.

As we experience the story, we encourage you to take your part. The Congregation will speak the words printed in bold. Thank you to our readers for helping us be there.

NARRATOR: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

DISCIPLES: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

ACCUSERS: *"This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"*

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

BYSTANDER: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: But they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then

Pilate said to him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARRATOR: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

CROWD: *"Barabbas."*

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CROWD: *"Let him be crucified!"*

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: *"Let him be crucified!"*

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CROWD: *"His blood be on us and on our children!"*

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)

NARRATOR: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

BYSTANDERS: ***"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."***

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: that is,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: ***"This man is calling for Elijah."***

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

BYSTANDERS: ***"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."***

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,

G *hear our prayer.*

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Illness: Arlene Andersen, David Carlsen, Audrey Cotton, Dorothy Cross, Dee Hiatt, Norman How (father of Suzanne How), Dee Luchsinger

Sympathy: To the family and friends of Pat Hanselman, sister of Gloria Erickson; to the family and friends of Ralph Worley, brother of Joyce Wachal

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Justin Perkins (Young Adults in Global Mission), Argentina/Uruguay; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

THE PEACE IS SHARED

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G *And also with you.*

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or use the giving kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

At the Foot of the Cross

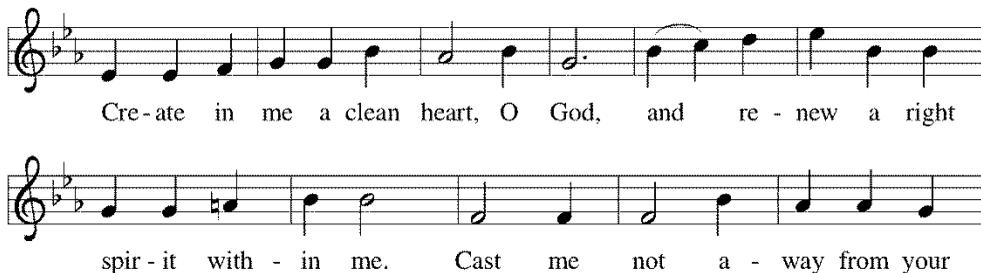
Lee Dengler

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



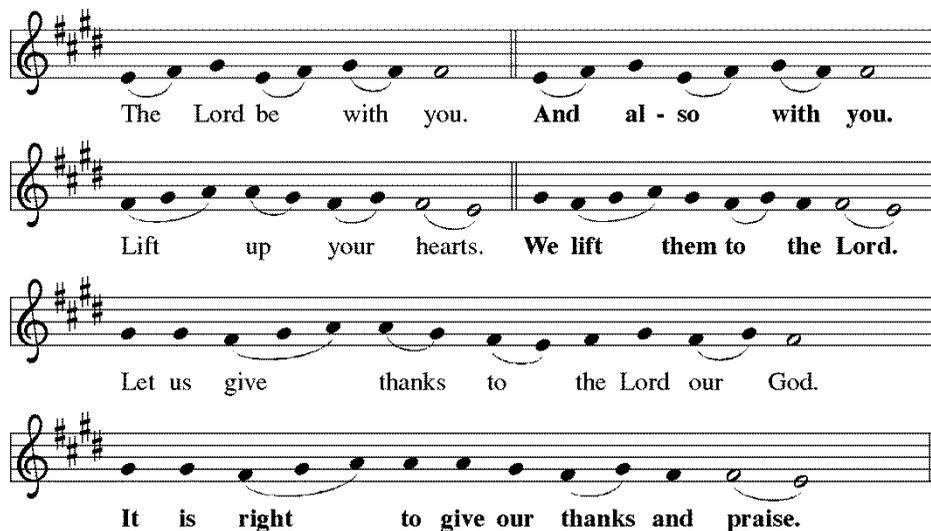
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ ***receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The Thanksgiving continues)

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☞ *Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☞ Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.
- ☞ *Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. Amen.*



Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for nearly 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

WORSHIP + GROW + SERVE

HOLY COMMUNION All who



are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be held April 30 & May 7 from 12—2 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card.

PARKING is available immediately west of the church between Farnam and Douglas, across from the church at Farnam and 26th Avenue, and in the deFreese Manor Parking Lot on the northwest corner of Douglas and 26th Avenue.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

KOUNTZE STAFF

- Pr. Dean W. Bard Interim Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall Associate Pastor
Pr. Paul Moessner Interim Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe Interim Christian Education Coordinator
Ian Hartfield Director of Congregational Life
Debbie Bogue Office Manager
Amanda Zasada Administrative Assistant
Lauri Askew Staff Treasurer
Sheri Rose Financial Secretary
John Bogue Building Superintendent
Tim Walker Chef
Søren Johnson Assist. Bldg. Superintendent
Barbara Carlsen Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Danny Bos Handbell Director/Assist. to the Bldg. Superintendent
Mark Jones Organist
David Gerard Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer Urban Ministries Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Tarna Kidder, Susann Henry, Dan Collett
Lector Mattie O'Kane
Ushers John Georgeson, Jim Comfort, Joe Councill, David Forrest, Jeff Perkins, Jeff Senn, Fred Wachal, Janice Falk
Greeters Darlene Anderson, Lennea Davis, Lori Senn, Carol Hyland
Crucifer Kai Johnson
Acolytes Britten Johnson, Clara Kidder

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

- Comm. Asst. Deb Hinrichs
Lector June Anderson
Ushers Ken Johnson, Linda Johnson, Lee Johnson, Julie O'Doherty, Norm Sack
Greeters Peggy Johnson, Myrna Carter
Crucifer Jackson Barrett
Acolytes Nicole Campbell, Charlie Campbell

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

- KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us on Sundays for a hot, breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Chef Tim and his volunteers. The suggested donation for breakfast is, \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.
ADULT FORUM Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM.
THIS WEEK: No Forum (Palm Sunday) NEXT WEEK: No Forum (Easter)
YOUNG MOTHERS Join us on Sunday mornings for some fresh brewed fun in the Fellowship Lounge between worship services for "Frappy Hour." Come meet other young mothers in the congregation for coffee, conversation, fellowship and fun.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

- SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday for Sunday School on the 2nd floor for children 2 years—8th grade. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9—10 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs—8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.
HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday week in the Youth Center at 10 AM.
YOUTH MINISTRY - WHAT'S HAPPENING? Parents: Join the conversation! Sunday, 4/9, 10:10 in the Joyful Sounds Room, upstairs. With all the staff changes it is easy to think that youth ministry has been suspended. We trust you know that is not the case. There is always value in talking with parents about their expectations and challenges. For this purpose, please come to one or both of the conversations listed above to express your hopes and hear information about Youth Ministry. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Pr. Moessner. Oh! Of course we will have other opportunities for Youth members to talk as well. Watch for details.

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA will meet 4/11 at noon at Immanuel Lutheran Church (2725 North 60th Avenue). The program will be David Hendee from the World Herald talking about his book on 150 years of Nebraska. If interested in attending, please call Carole at 402-339-2056.

THE HEART OF CAMP GALA ensures that children have the ability to attend camp. First, Carol Joy Holling Camp has the policy that no child is turned away from attending camp because of their inability to pay. Each year the camp directly helps nearly 300 children attend camp who need financial assistance to attend, and this event helps us keep

extending the invitation to more children. Carol Joy Holling Camp also subsidizes every child who attends by almost \$300 per child. This helps keep our fees competitive and in-line with what we believe most families can afford to provide a Christian-camping experience for their children. The Gala takes place on 4/22 at the La Vista Conference Center at Embassy Suites, La Vista 5 PM Cocktails and Silent Auction; 6:55 PM Invocation - Pr. Paula Lawhead; 7 PM Dinner and Awards. Cost is \$100. If you have any further questions, please contact Heather Abbott by emailing HAbbott@NLOM.org or call 402-944-2544. If you would like to donate to the silent auction or if you would like to donate to the event, please contact Heather Abbott or check the camp website at http://caroljoyholling.org/gala.

KOUNTZE PANTRY NEEDS This week we need: Pork 'n Beans, Pasta/Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Chicken, Tuna. Your time and monetary offerings are always welcome as well. Please talk to JP if you have questions. Thanks.

The power of God's resurrection has already begun.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Bible Reference, and Reading Description. Rows include Sunday through Saturday with references like Matthew 21:1-11 and descriptions like 'Jesus enters Jerusalem'.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross." Philippians 2:7-8 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for your work of salvation that comes from your self-giving love through the obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have given us so much—your life to save us, and good food to feed us. Help us to live for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to believe in Jesus as God's Son. May God help you to trust Jesus as your Savior and to humbly serve him. (Matthew 27:54; Philippians 2:5)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- For Jesus, obedience to God's will trumps everything. What does obedience to God's will look like for you?
• Religious leaders thought they were defending God by opposing Jesus. How do we drive God away from us with our religious opinions?
• What does it mean to have a God who refuses to stay away from us, even when we turn our backs on God?

DEVOTIONS

Read the "Daily Bible Readings" from this Taking Faith Home and reflect on the meaning of Holy Week for you, the church, and the world. Use a storybook Bible with children. (For each day, add the recommended item to a visible area in the home.) Conclude each day's reflections with the Lord's Prayer.

Palm Sunday: (Palm branch or leaf) What does it mean that the people who praise Jesus will soon utter, "Crucify him"?

Holy Monday: (Bottle of perfume) What does it mean to honor Jesus?

Holy Tuesday: (Coins) What does it mean for us to betray God's sacrificial love?

Holy Wednesday: (Bowl of water) Reflect on Jesus' silence.

Maundy Thursday: (Bread) Reflect on the Last Supper.

Good Friday: (Nails) Reflect on the depth of God's love through Jesus' death.

Holy Saturday: (Rock) Reflect on the death of Jesus.

Easter Sunday: (Lit candle) Reflect on how the resurrection changes everything.

SERVICE

Service to others can be done grudgingly or with an attitude of martyrdom that focuses on us instead of our neighbor. Celebrate God's loving service to you and the world by choosing to serve someone else as a way to say, "I care about you, and God loves you." Let service be a way of life as a follower of Jesus.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week, we remember the journey of Jesus from his entry in Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith. Let the structure of Holy Week guide your home activities. It's especially helpful to plan for Friday and Saturday to be quiet, at-home days, with few scheduled activities. Plan simple meals and cut back on treats and use of media. Agree on times when you can gather together to reflect on the events of Jesus' Passion.

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STEPHEN MINISTRY What does Stephen Ministry provide? Someone who cares, supports, listens, shares. Who can benefit? Anyone going through difficult times who needs someone to care, listen, and share God's love with them on a one-to-one confidential basis. Want to know more? Contact Donna Reinig (402-558-6352) or one of our pastors.

JOINT SERVICE OF COMMON PRAYER The Nebraska Synod and the Archdiocese of Omaha will participate in the joint commemoration at two events: the first will be held Monday, 5/1 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral (Bishop Maas will preach) and on Monday, 9/11 at Kountze Memorial (Archbishop Lucas will preach). Times for the evening events will be finalized soon. In anticipation of commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation together, the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (of the Vatican) created a service of Common Prayer to be used in diocese/synods around the world and it will be basis of our liturgy together. We encourage you to plan to attend one or both of these historical events.

THIS WEEK AT KOUNTZE

- April 9 Palm Sunday
7:45 & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
8:00 - 11:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM deFreese Manor Board
10:10 AM Young Mothers "Frappy Hour"
10:10 AM Youth Ministry Parent Meeting
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
12:00 PM Book Group
7:00 PM MS & HS Girl's Bible Study
9:00 PM LCM Worship (Halley Chapel)

- April 10 Monday in Holy Week
10:00 AM Pantry
12:15 PM Worship

- April 11 Tuesday in Holy Week
9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Worship

- April 12 Wednesday in Holy Week
9:00 AM Sewing Group
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
6:30 PM Confirmation

- April 13 Maundy Thursday
Council Reports Due
11:15 AM Lenten Lunch
6:00 PM Lenten Dinner
6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Worship

- April 14 Good Friday
10:45 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
12:00 - 3:00 PM Ecumenical Worship
7:00 PM Worship

- April 15 Saturday - Easter Vigil
Good News Deadline
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
10:00 PM Easter Vigil Worship

- April 16 Easter Sunday
6:45, 8 & 10 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00 - 11:00 AM Easter Breakfast
7:30, 9 & 11 AM Worship
8:00 AM MS/HS Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:15 AM Fun Easter Activities

- April 17 Monday
Office Closed

Table with 2 columns: Next Weekend's Lessons and Bible References. References include Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, and Matthew 28:1-10.

Saturday Attendance: 49
Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 260 11:00: 119
Midweek - Noon: 49 Evening: 65
Total: 542
Pantry Guests Served: 299
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 32
Offering:
\$15,515.34 (Regular) \$2,650.00 (Specials)
\$27,223.00 (In the City for Good)

Lent at Kountze
Theme: We Are Church
April 13 (Maundy Thursday) - Pr. Moessner
Confession and Absolution with Eucharist
Lunch - 11:15 - 12 PM Dinner - 6 - 7 PM
Cost - Free-will Offering
Worship - 12:15 PM and 7 PM