



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*“Open the Gates of the Temple”*

by J.S. Knapp  
arr. Lani Smith  
Jon Anderson, pianist  
Bruce Nissan, organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C** **Amen.**
  
- P** Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

- P** God of mercy,
- C** **we confess that we have sinned against you,  
against one another,  
and against the earth entrusted to our care.  
We are worried and distracted by many things,  
and we fail to love you above all else.  
We store up treasures for ourselves  
and turn away from our neighbors in need.  
Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
  
- P** When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us † all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!
- C** **Amen.**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord God,
- C** your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

*(sit)*

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's own hearts.*

**T**he Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,<sup>10</sup> when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup>Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, “*Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?*” <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “*Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?*” <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 25:1-10** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**SECOND READING**

**Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage from Paul.*

**P**aul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and

understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

🙏 Glory to you, O Lord!

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. Jesus tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

**J**ust then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup>He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own



(sit)

**HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)**

Denise Lewis

See page 227

*Because Baptism is a worship experience, please do not take flash photos during the service. Photos may be taken after the service.*

(stand)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Response:**   **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

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

**Thanksgiving:** for the baptism of Denise Lewis

**Illness:** the Barber family, Richard Bock, Don Burton, Ralph Diggins, Joe Doremus, Rev. Harry Fink, Junior & Marvel Green, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, Mae Johnston, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Gary Rodene, Marilyn Van Bibber, Ed & Darlene White

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, 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; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

## **WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.









# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Lead On, O King Eternal”*

**ELW 805**

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.  
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“All Hail the Power”*

Oliver Holden  
arr. Ethel Smith  
Jon Anderson, pianist  
Bruce Nissan, organist





**July 14 Sunday**

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship  
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum  
 10:30 AM Executive Committee  
 12:00 PM Book Group

**July 15 Monday**

Good News Deadline  
 10:00 AM Pantry

**July 16 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group  
 4:30 PM KETV Board  
 6:00 PM Congregational Council

**July 17 Wednesday**

12:15 PM Worship

**July 18 Thursday**

11:30 AM Men's Luncheon  
 4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic  
 7:00 PM Circle 5

**July 19 Friday**

5:30 PM Vacation Bible School

**July 20 Saturday**

8:30 AM Vacation Bible School  
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group  
 5:00 PM Worship

**July 21 Sunday**

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast  
 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship  
 9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)  
 10:00AM Blood Pressure Checks  
 10:10 AM Adult Forum

**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.

**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.

**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.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be Sundays, September 15 & 22 from 12:15—2:00 PM. Plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by September 9 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

**KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY** With July upon us the time for vacations has arrived, at least for the Pantry volunteers. Unfortunately, most of our guests do not get a break. Having an adequate number of volunteers is essential to the Food Pantry operation, and allows us to serve over 400 guests per week. If you can sign-up for a shift, your service would be greatly appreciated. Pantry is open every Monday. You can choose between 9:00—11:00 AM, or 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or both. You do not need to have prior experience, just a willingness to put faith into action! Sign-up book is located in Meeting room A of the Fellowship Hall.

**PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** This group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (July 16) to knit or crochet prayer shawls. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a world-wide group of people in churches of all denominations that make prayer shawls. These shawls are distributed to people who need the comfort of God's love. The purpose of the prayer shawl is to give someone a tangible example of God's love and care. If you knit or crochet, please feel free to join the group in their ministry.

**MEN'S LUNCHEON** Join us on Thursday, July 18 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Lounge for lunch. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Vicki Meyer will share with us the History of Methodist's Community Counselor

Program and Jim will give quick update on Sanctuary structural reinforcement around the dome. Please RSVP to the church office or jim@kmlchurch.org by Tuesday, July 16.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at noon. 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.

**CAROL JOY HOLLING 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION** Saturday, July 27, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Join in this exciting day at Carol Joy Holling Camp on July 27 for our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Quilt Auction! The day promises good food, great fun and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of Carol Joy Holling Camp. The auction and barbecue lunch will be held rain or shine. (We will use the Town Hall in case of rain.) Bring your friends and families! Kountze has donated several quilts to the auction. Be sure to check them out online at <http://cjh2019.piecd.com/index.cfm>

**TIP TOP THRIFT SHOP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** The Tip Top Thrift Shop supports the Youth Emergency Services program and is their largest fundraiser. In order to continue this support, community volunteers are needed. The Thrift shop is located at 5910 Maple Street in Benson and needs volunteer workers on Tuesdays, thru Saturdays. There are three and six-hour shifts available. These shifts are 10:00 AM—1:00 PM, 1:00 PM—4:00 PM, or 10:00 AM—4:00 PM. If you are interested in helping at the Thrift Shop, stop in and fill out a volunteer application. If you have questions, call 402-680-2842.



Sunday, August 25 | 10:10 AM | Fellowship Hall

#### ATTENDANCE & GIVING

**Saturday Attendance:** 61  
**Sunday Attendance: 9:00:** 156 **11:00:** 74  
**Midweek - Noon:** 11  
**Total:** 302  
**Pantry Guests Served:** 326  
**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 0  
**Offering:**  
\$18,399.54 (Regular) \$17,402.06 (Specials)  
\$1,870.00 (Phase 2)

#### Vacation Bible School!

**Who:** All members of Kountze are welcome. There will be activities for everybody! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)  
**What:** Worship, singing, crafts, service, fellowship, and more.  
**When:** Friday, July 19, 6:00 to 8:00  
Saturday, July 20, 9:00 to noon.  
**Where:** Kountze Fellowship Hall

Dinner will be served Friday evening and a Continental breakfast served in the morning.

RSVP to the church office by calling 402-341-7761, or email Kristin Boe at [Kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:Kristin@kmlchurch.org).

## Show mercy to your neighbor.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 10:25-37	The good Samaritan
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Colossians 1:1-14	A prayer of thanks
Wednesday	Genesis 39:6-23	God protects Joseph
Thursday	James 2:1-13	Warning against favorites
Friday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Saturday	Psalm 25	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Luke 10:38-42	Only one thing needed



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“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He [The lawyer] said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” **Luke 10:36-37 (NRSV)**

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of grace, for the sake of your goodness, take our fears, prejudices, and hate and fill our hearts with mercy and our actions with deeds of love. Amen.

### Mealttime Prayer:

God, for this food, your praises we shout! We ask for your help for those without. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God give you strength to endure all things and to live with joy and thanksgiving. (Colossians 1:11-12)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean to show mercy to someone?
- Is it easier to show mercy or judge a person's actions? Why?
- Why is it sometimes easier to show mercy and understanding to a family member or friend than to someone we do not know?

*Read:* Luke 10:25-37.

Our world is full of judgment and condemnation for people who are different from us. We hear it in the news daily. One nation condemns another nation. One group of people shows hate to another group. It can be so easy to belittle others, see them in a negative light and feel justified in our superiority. What often gets missed is the fear of others that justifies human hate of others. Without saying, “Have no fear” or, “Peace be with you,” as Jesus says at other times, here Jesus tells a story of a hated (at least by many Jews of Jesus’ day) Samaritan who defies hate-filled stereotypes of him and acts with mercy. The Samaritan acts with courage and compassion and takes real initiative to provide for the needs of another. He demonstrates what Jesus means by being a neighbor: prejudices are set aside; fears are overcome; compassion and mercy win the day. It has been said that the greatest act the church can show is not an act of righteous judgment but an act of mercy. Where might God be leading you to show mercy to others today?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, you who forgive our sins and give us new life, lead us in love to live lives of courage and faith and to care for those around us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.**

Being a good neighbor means caring for others both in good times and bad times. If you have not met or even know your nearby neighbors, they are strangers. Can you name everyone in your own neighborhood? How would you know when they need a helping hand if you do not know them? Consider ways to introduce yourself this week through an act of kindness to the neighbors you do not know.

Psalm 25 guides us in understanding how to live in a relationship with God, one that is filled with promises. Faith practices we do in our homes strengthen our relationships with one another and with God. One faith practice is to read scripture daily. Read Psalm 25 and circle those words or phrases that guide you to a personal, trusted relationship with God.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42