

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

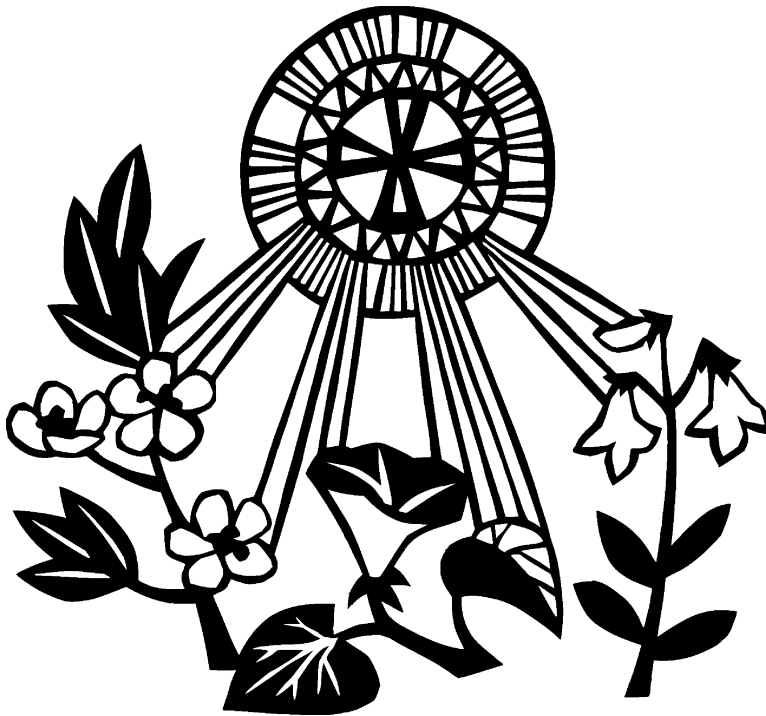
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

May 17, 2020

9:00 AM

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- 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** Almighty and ever-living God,
C you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20 (read responsively)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

**⁹Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**¹¹You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,

and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE NICENE CREED

- P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(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)

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Carol Coffey, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, sister & father of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Sheri Tipton, Joyce Wachal, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

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

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Craig Courtney
Barb Carlsen, soloist

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Merciful God,
- ☑ our ordinary gifts seem so small in light of your Easter gift, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **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

☐ Come to the Easter banquet.

☑ **We receive the risen Christ!**

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Dearest Lord Jesus,

C we believe that you are present in the Lord's Supper. We love you above all things, and we earnestly desire to receive you. Since we cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you as if you are already there and we unite ourselves wholly to you. Never permit us to be separated from you. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May the God who raised Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"Let All Things Now Living"

ELW 881

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the Easter news.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

† † †

Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities until further notice. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
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Omaha, NE 68131
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May 17, 2020

Alleluia!

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM—note additional day & time (Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 8:00 PM).

The Kountze Food Pantry is operating as usual during the COVID-19 closings. We have modified our service to protect the volunteers and guests. It is important to limit the number of volunteers we have in the building at one time, so it is important you sign up at the link below, for a specific time if you plan on volunteering. We are in need of volunteers in May. You may sign up for 7:30—9:00 AM, which is specifically for unloading trucks and restocking. 9:00—11:00 AM is for filling sacks and distribution. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM is for distribution to guests. We also have a Friday evening service from 5:00—8:00 PM. We will be closed on Memorial Day. Please consider joining us!

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 195

Pantry Guests Served: 312

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 24

Offering:

\$30,324.04 (Regular) \$6,748.98 (Specials)

\$5,212.00 (Debt Reduction)

Today at Kountze

Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

In Peace,
Kristin

Youth Forum will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at mwjensen@yahoo.com for details.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of their 32nd wedding anniversary (5/14) given by John & Lynn Schneiderman; in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary (5/17) given by Pam & Bob Johnson

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Lee & Jean Johnson in honor of the 20th Anniversary of Jean's commissioning as a Deacon



Jesus will not abandon us.

taking
faith
home

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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

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

Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul in Athens
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:7-8	God will be with you
Thursday	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus is taken up to heaven
Friday	2 Timothy 1:3-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalm 66:8-20	Shout praises to God
Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples

“I [Jesus] will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” **John 14:18 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Come, Holy Spirit, give me the faith and strength to love others as Christ has loved me and the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and the people who have brought it from the earth to our tables, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who made the world and everything in it, bless you with a loving heart. (Acts 17:24)

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

- Think or tell about a time you have felt alone and afraid.
- What do you do when you feel all alone or abandoned?
- Talk or think about a time you have felt God’s presence when no one else seemed to care.

Read: John 14:15-21.

The Gospel of John weaves themes into one another like a beautiful tapestry. That is clearly what is going on here in John 14. At the heart of it is that Jesus will not abandon his followers. He loves them and wants them to love him by keeping his commandments (v. 15), which is to love one another (13:34). Jesus will remain with us, his followers, through the presence of “another Advocate” (v. 16), just as Jesus himself is an advocate (1 John 2:1). The word “advocate” in the original Greek also means counselor, helper, or intercessor. The Advocate is here to help us. Like Jesus, the other advocate is the Holy Spirit, “Spirit of truth,” just as Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). After Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, we still have Jesus with us through the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Christ a reality in our lives today in that we may love one another and the world as God does (John 3:16). We are not abandoned after Jesus’ ascension; we are empowered to live out the new commandment to love one another and the world. How do you, as a follower of Jesus, live out the new commandment?

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

Jesus gives us the commandment to love others by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-21). There are times when it is not easy to love because of actions or things said or not said. Think of someone that it is not easy to care for and offer this prayer for them: **Dear Jesus, open my heart to the needs of others. Help me to care for (name) with your love. Amen.**

In John 14:15-21, Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. One pivotal principle of faith formation is that faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Write a list of people who have influenced your life of faith. How did they influence you? Name a person who you have or would like to influence and pray for them this week asking for the power of the Holy Spirit to form a trusted relationship.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11