

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

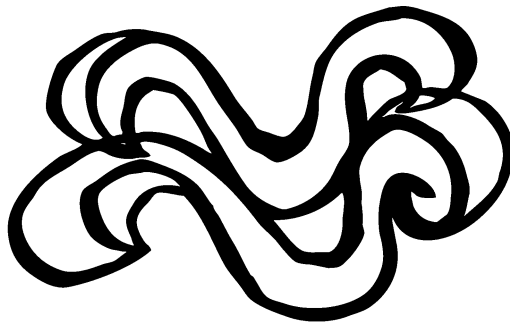
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
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2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
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May 24, 2020

9:00 AM

ASCENSION SUNDAY



In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

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 Give to our God immortal praise!
Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.**

**2 God sent his Son with pow'r to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.**

**3 Give to the Lord of lords renown;
the King of kings with glory crown.
His mercies ever shall endure
when lords and kings are known no more!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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 God,

C your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be

my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47 (read responsively)

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “*These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.*”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “*Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*”⁴⁸ *You are witnesses of these things.* ⁴⁹*And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

☒ 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 Hall

1 **Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows;
Jesus bought our peace with God
with his holy, precious blood;
peace in him for sinners found
is the gospel’s joyful sound.**

2 **Peace within the church still dwells
in our welcomes and farewells;
and through God’s baptismal pow’r
peace surrounds our dying hour.
Peace be with you, full and free,
now and through eternity.**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

THE NICENE CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **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

“Garnet”

Vander Cook
Rahn Johnson, trombone

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

- P** Merciful God,
G 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.

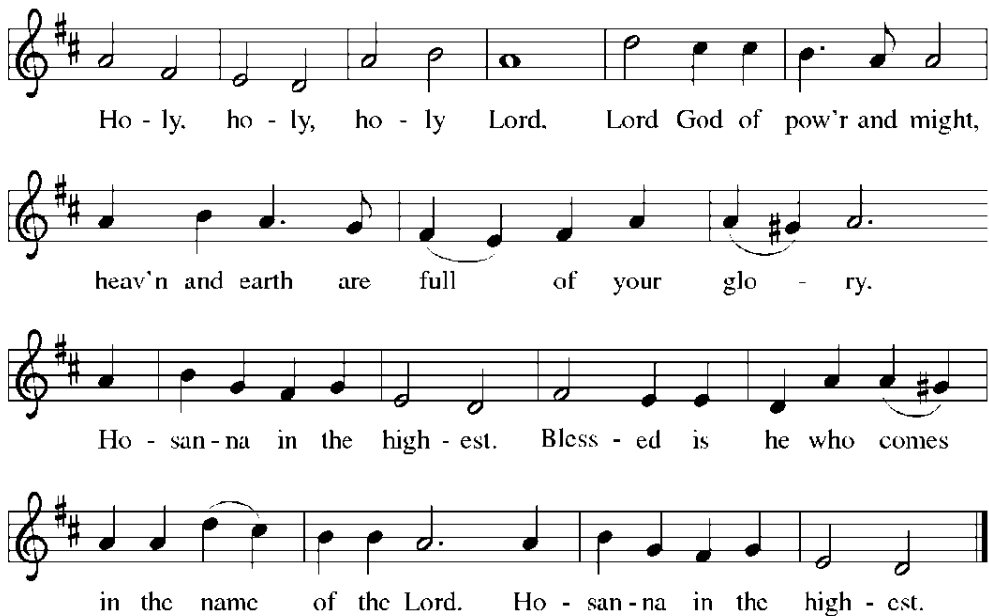
HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
G And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
G We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
G 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

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
- C** **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

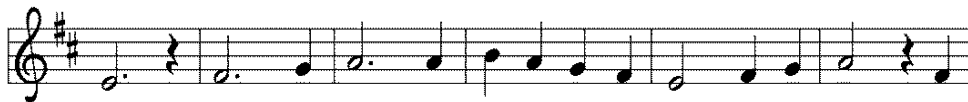
- P** Come to the Easter banquet.
- C** We receive the risen Christ!

(sit)

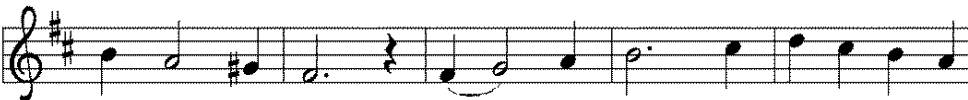
AGNUS DEI



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

- ☐ Dearest Lord Jesus,
- ☑ 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

- ☐ 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

- 1** A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall
ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2** The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful foll'wers see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3** To whom the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4** "This is the Savior!" thus they say,
"this is his glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4** "You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5** O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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



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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
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

May 24, 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: 197

Pantry Guests Served: 287

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$25,507.00 (Regular) \$247.03 (Specials)

\$3,162.00 (Phase 2)

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

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Edward & Mary Lamprecht Bock given by Richard Bock; given by Steve & Jen Urlab in honor of Steve's parents, Mark & LuAnn Urlab



Eternal life begins now.

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

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension of Jesus
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:13-28	Paul's encouraging words
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	God's protection
Friday	Ephesians 4:11-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	Praise and thanksgiving
Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples

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taking
faith
home

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **John 17:3 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us the Spirit of Christ that we may know you and live with you today and with one another in love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of orphans and protector of widows, as we enjoy this meal, we pray for food for all people. Amen. (Psalm 68:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ support and strengthen you. (1 Peter 5:10)

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

- ☑ Describe what a best day in your life would look like.
- ☑ What role do friends and family have in your life when you describe your best day?
- ☑ What do you think God would want as part of your best day?

Read: John 17:1-11.

Being with God in eternity seems to be something we anticipate after we die, but not in the Gospel of John. Eternity is understood as a life that begins now and is experienced through faith in “the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (v. 3). Jesus speaks of his glory (vv. 1, 4, 5, 10). The hour of his glory is his suffering, death, and resurrection. We participate in Jesus’ glory as those who remain in the world now protected by God (v. 11). Eternal life is experienced as a life of glory that knows suffering but also knows God in Christ. A personal relationship with Jesus is not private. We live in eternity now as the body of Christ in the world together. Therefore, Jesus prays that all of his followers “may be one, as we are one,” that is, as Jesus and the Father are one. Eternal life involves a relationship to God that knows, trusts, and believes in Jesus as the one who is with the Father. One may ask, “How do you think you will experience eternity after you have died?” John’s question would be, “How do you experience eternity now, living with God and with one another in a world that God loves?”

Pray: **Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of faith that we may experience your presence in our lives through the body of Christ. Amen.**

In 1 Peter 5:9, we are reminded to be steadfast in our faith. There are many places in the world today where Christians are suffering and being persecuted. Be aware of this suffering by learning more about it and be in prayer for those who cannot express their faith freely. Pray for missionaries working in those parts of the world that they will remain steadfast in their faith.

The disciples watched Jesus ascend to heaven as a cloud took him out of sight. Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Make a dessert in a glass alternating blue gelatin with whipped cream to symbolize the sky, clouds, and Jesus’ ascension. Talk about ways you have been or can be a witness for Jesus. After you finish, say the Lord’s Prayer.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13