

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
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June 28, 2020

9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Reconciling God,

C we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.

We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we will live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through 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

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 God,
- C** you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

L The word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18 (*read responsively*)

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**“I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.”**”

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

¹⁶**They rejoice daily in your name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸**Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

Jesus said to the twelve: ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

☐ 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

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

ELW 599

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.</p> <p>2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.</p> | <p>3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.</p> <p>4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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: 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, family of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Sheri Tipton, 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.
G 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.

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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

“My Song of Praise”

Don Besig
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

- P** God of goodness and growth,
- C** all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we will proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

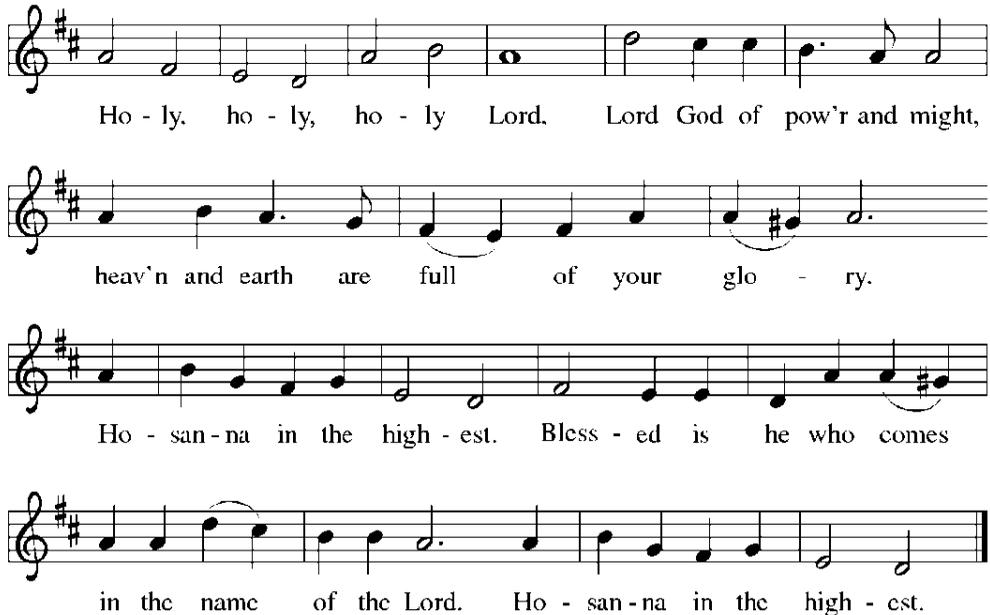
- ☐ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

- ☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- ☐ 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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 Friends of Jesus, come to his table.

C **We receive nourishment for our journey.**

(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 Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless you now and keep you in eternal love.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"

ELW 676

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek
your straying children, lost and lone.

2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.

3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
until our very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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June 28, 2020

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

The Kountze Food Pantry will continue to operate out of the garage door at least until July 31st. We believe the open air environment is better to protect volunteers and guests from the virus. We will reevaluate at that time. We are seeing an upward trend in numbers of guests at the pantry. Fortunately, the Food Bank for the Heartland received a large influx of donations, and is temporarily providing food to Kountze for free, or mostly free, since April 28th. We also received \$3,175.00 during the Omaha Gives event. As always, the Pantry is in need of toilet tissue. If you can donate a package or two, it will be greatly appreciated! When volunteering, please sign up for available slots at the link below.

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



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 165

Pantry Guests Served: 628

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$13,664.04 (Regular) \$11,284.99 (Specials)

\$2,422.00 (Phase 2)

Transportation Needed

Groceries & Doctor Appointments from Papillion

We have a member that is in need of rides to the grocery store and doctor appointments. If you're available to help, please call the church office (402-341-7761) and we'll get you in touch. Thanks for your help!



Virtual Vacation Bible School!

July 6 -10

KMLC Parent's Facebook Page

Rally Day

Sunday, August 23

Today at Kountze

Sunday School

Each Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on the KMLC Parent Group Facebook Page. 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

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God by Dr. Gary & Judy Westerman in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Church Office Closed

Friday, July 3



In observance of the 4th of July, the church office will be closed on Friday, July 3.

We are freed from sin to care for others.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-14	Command to sacrifice Isaac
Thursday	Psalms 13	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	Acts 6:5-15	The arrest of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary



No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, grace, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has freed you from sin bless you with a holy life and life eternal. (Romans 6:22)

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

- When have you been tempted to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Should there be consequences when someone does something wrong? Explain.
- How does the Christian faith lead you beyond selfish desires?

Read: Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith was license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul (6:15). What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power in the universe opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to that life opposed to God (6:4). What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “to God as instruments of righteousness” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. The life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend so Paul writes, “I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations,” so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence (v. 19). How does God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve in Christ’s name?

Pray: **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leading a life as a follower of Jesus can seem to be a big task. In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds us that even the small things we do are acts of service, like giving a cup of water (v.42). Giving a drink of water, holding a door, and offering a kind word can make a difference in someone’s life. What acts of service can you do this week?

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Whether mealtime or bedtime prayers, reading the Bible, singing hymns, or blessing one another, the faith practices we model in our homes live on from generation to generation. Make a list of faith practices you do in your home. What ones have you passed on to others?

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30