

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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www.kmlchurch.org

July 19, 2020

9:00 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.</p> <p>2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.</p> | <p>3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.</p> <p>4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

- 1** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. ☑
- 2** Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. ☑
- 3** Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ☑
- 4** For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. ☑

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Faithful God, most merciful judge,
- ☑ you care for your children with a firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we will be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 86:11-17 (*read responsively*)

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “*Abba! Father!*” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

☒ 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 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: *"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "*

³⁶Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, *"Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."* ³⁷He answered, *"The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen."*

📖 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

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW 733

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
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Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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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,
 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, Jacob Brown, nephew of Ron Brown, Don Burton, Lois Carlsen, Carol Coffey, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, family of James Holzer, Renee Johnshon, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Johsnon, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, 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.
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!



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

- ☐ God of goodness and growth,
- ☑ **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

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Friends of Jesus, come to his table.
- ☑ 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ℘** God of the welcome table,
- ☩** **in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- ℘** 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

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus”

ELW 501

**Come with us, O blessed Jesus,
with us evermore to be.
And, in leaving now thine altar,
let us nevermore leave thee!
Let thy bright celestial chorus
never cease the heav'nly strain;
but in us, thy loving children,
come with peace, good will to reign.**

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891

DISMISSAL

- ℘** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.
- ☩** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

✠ ✠ ✠

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Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

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July 19, 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 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry will continue to operate out of the garage door. We believe the open air environment is better to protect volunteers and guests from the virus.

The Kountze Food Pantry more than doubled in attendance in June over May. July is looking to keep pace with that increase. The volunteers are doing a wonderful job keeping up with higher numbers! If you wish to volunteer, please sign up at the link below. If you can't volunteer, but wish to help, we can always use toilet paper, ramen noodles, coffee, and canned fruit. When volunteering, please sign up for available slots at the link below. Thank-you!

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



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 143

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 57

Pantry Guests Served: 529

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 33

Offering:

\$17,816.00 (Regular) \$2,342.63 (Specials)

\$812.00 (Phase 2)



Saturday, July 25
Carol Joy Holling Camp Quilt Auction

More info at: CHJCenter.org/quilt-auction

CJH Camp Classic

Friday, August 21—Kearney, NE

Friday, September 25—Carol Joy Holling

Register at: cjhcenter.org/upcoming-retreats

Rally Day

Sunday, August 23

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Barb & Bruce Nissen's wedding anniversary; in honor of Jean Johnson's birthday

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



**Worshipping Together
When We're Apart
From One Another**

Christians are people of hope.

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-19a	Jacob's dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-32, 41-52	Parables of the kingdom



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

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you, and give you strength. (Psalm 86:16)

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

- Tell or think about something you want to see happen in the near future.
- What gives you hope?
- How does faith in God give you hope?

Read: Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death “by the Spirit” that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: “. . . we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.” Paul speaks of living “according to the flesh” (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God (vv. 14-15). As children who can say, “Abba! Father!” we are heirs of God’s future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we “suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him” (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. We wait for Christ’s final victory with hope and patience (v. 25). How does knowing you are an heir of God’s future in Christ help you have patience and hope?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. Amen.

“The good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one” (Matthew 13:38). We are planted by God as seeds on the earth. Though there may be “weeds” among us, good “seeds” make good decisions and reflect God’s love through acts of service. In what ways have you or someone you know been a “good seed” in your community?

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer and scripture reading. Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to someone else? Pray using Psalm 86:11, “Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.” Amen.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52